

Snorers have fragile heart

AVIV (AFP) — A study of 1,000 people who snore while sleeping found that they are at a higher risk of heart attack and stroke. The study, published in the medical journal *British Medical Journal*, found that snorers have a 30 per cent higher risk of heart disease and a 40 per cent higher risk of stroke. The study also found that snorers have a higher risk of high blood pressure and diabetes. The researchers concluded that snoring is a sign of a fragile heart and that people who snore should be monitored for heart disease.

Chinese lured by cable TV

BEIJING (AFP) — Between 25 and 30 per cent of Chinese families have cable television, according to a survey by the China Daily newspaper. The survey found that cable TV is most popular in big cities and among the middle class. It also found that cable TV is used for a variety of purposes, including watching news, entertainment, and educational programs. The survey also found that cable TV is becoming more popular in rural areas and among the elderly.

Ill-fated Russian circus finally going home

MANILA (AFP) — A Russian circus stranded without money in the southern Philippines and local officials are finally sending it home. The circus, which arrived in Manila last month, was stranded because it was unable to pay its bills. The local officials had to pay for the circus's expenses, but they were unable to get the circus to leave. The circus finally left Manila on Monday, but it was still in a state of financial crisis.

Abdul Shafi to run in self-rule polls

CAIRO (AFP) — A leading Palestinian opposition figure in the Gaza Strip said Monday his party would run in self-rule elections next year despite its hostility to the autonomy accord signed with Israel. When asked if he would participate in the elections, Haidar Abdul Shafi told the Arabic daily *Al Hayat*. "Yes. We consider the elections extremely important. I don't rule out the possibility of myself or the Movement for Building Democracy (MBD) in elections because they may be the only way to try to get out of the crisis we are in." He also urged Hamas to run in the elections. "Hamas is a political organisation and I call on all political organisations to participate in the elections," he said. Dr. Abdul Shafi, the former chief Palestinian negotiator with Israel, stressed his opposition to the West Bank autonomy deal signed on Sept. 28 which allows the holding of elections for a self-rule council. He said: "Israel continues to build settlements (in the West Bank) and this robs the peace process and even talks on final status of any meaning."

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King, Queen return home

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor returned home Monday following what the King described as highly successful visits to the United States, Britain and France. "The visit to the United States gave me the chance to have talks with President Clinton and senior U.S. officials," said the King, who described the talks as frank and clear. He said the discussions covered, among other things, bilateral relations and the situation in the Middle East region as well as the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference. King Hussein, who attended the Sept. 28 signing ceremony in Washington of the Palestinian



His Majesty King Hussein is received upon his return home along with Her Majesty Queen Noor on Monday by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan (Petra photo)

Israeli agreements on expanding autonomy, said that the agreement was a major step forward. "I hope that the future will see more progress. It is obvious that will take time and determination to make peace a reality," said the King, expressing hope that comprehensive peace and settlement will be achieved before too long with the participation of Syria and Lebanon. Asked if President Clinton would attend the MENA conference later this month, he said: "I am not aware that the president himself will be coming but certainly there will be a high-level delegation." He added that an elite of world leaders will be taking part in the gathering. (Continued on page 7)

Nunn quits

ATLANTA (AFP) — Sam Nunn, a veteran senator and a leading authority on U.S. defence matters, announced Monday he would not seek reelection, dealing a new blow to Democratic Party hopes of regaining control of Congress. One of the most respected lawmakers in Washington, Mr. Nunn became the eighth Democratic senator to announce his retirement ahead of elections next year, compared to only one Republican senator.

Aideed's 'minister' reportedly defects

MOGADISHU (AFP) — A Mogadishu newspaper Monday published a letter purportedly written by Colonel Ahmad Omar Jess to announce he was planning to quit as warlord Mohammed Farah Aideed's "defence minister." The letter, stamped "confidential," was addressed to the Kenyan armed forces chief of general staff, General Mahamoud Mohammed, but his office in Nairobi could not confirm Monday that such a letter had been received. Both men are of the Ogaden clan, present in both north-east Kenya and south-east Somalia. Col. Jess controls the lower Juba Valley region of south Somalia, and his militia are on the outskirts of the port city of Kismayo, held by General Mohammed Said Hirs "Morgan," a bitter rival who was a son-in-law of late dictator Mohamed Siad Barre.

24 dead, 20 missing in Algerian mishap

ALGIERS (AFP) — At least 24 people were killed, one seriously injured and 20 missing after a lorry accident in southern Algeria, according to new figures released by the civil guard and reported by radio Monday. On Sunday following the accident, 23 people were reported dead. State radio said Monday the accident near Laghouat, 250 kilometres south of Algiers, was caused by the collapse of a bridge weakened by the torrential downpours. The official news agency APS said Sunday the lorry had skidded on the wet road surface.

Rabin, Peres win Orthodox prizes

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem Monday awarded peace prizes to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. The two men have been awarded the patriarchate's "Golden Peace Prize" in recognition of their signing of peace accords with the Palestinians and their efforts to establish an overall Middle East peace plan. The men will receive the award during a ceremony on Jerusalem's Mount of Olives on Oct. 17.

Prince urges radio and TV to focus on national achievements

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Monday called on the information services to focus attention on Jordan's achievements in the political, social and economic fields and help reflect a bright image of the Kingdom to the world. By doing so the information services will help enhance self-confidence in Jordanian and Arab citizens, said the Regent during a visit to the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation (JRTC). Addressing a meeting of the higher steering committee for information for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) conference later this month, the Regent said that building self-confidence was a basic requirement, which needs the use of genuine information in radio and television programmes while covering conference. He said that care should be taken to avoid anything that might cast suspicion on the country's political march. Efforts should be made to reflect the Kingdom's development and achievements over the past decades, he said. He said that the information services have a serious responsibility to convey the correct information to the public. Stressing that the peace process helps to establish security and stability, the Crown Prince pointed out the importance of "the peace-building process" and the prosperity peace will achieve for the countries of the region. The peace process has been instrumental in enhancing the country's credibility before the world, he said. The Regent said that Jordan faces the challenge of being able to address the world about its achievements, especially as it enjoys a central location between Europe and Eastern Asian nations and also has a role in enriching regional and international cooperation. The Regent told the meeting, attended by deputy prime ministers Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh and Khaled Karaki as well as the directors of information services that Jordan had to come up with programmes that would encourage contacts with other countries. He stressed the need for linking Jordan with the outside world taking good advantage of the MENA meeting.

Iraq pushes campaign for an end to sanctions

Kuwaiti premier says his fears of invasion are based on information especially the stock market. Some columnists and members of parliament claimed they were designed to distract public attention away from an forthcoming report by a parliamentary inquiry into government preparedness to deal with Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. "I do not want in this gathering to speak in details," Sheikh Saad told a news conference Monday. "Discussing this topic might be in the interest of the destroyer of Iraq (Saddam Hussein). We receive our own information from our own sources, sisterly and brotherly countries, and build our strategies accordingly." He did not elaborate. Sheikh Saad denied that he had specified a time frame for Iraqi threats to materialise when he spoke last month in a men-only, evening gathering known as diwaniya. "I tell you without any hesitation, beware of that man (Saddam). His aggressive intentions... are still there and he has a strategy," Sheikh Saad said. "As for when he starts implementing it, only God knows." Referring to the forthcoming report by the parliamentary inquiry, he said he was prepared to tell Kuwaitis everything. "I take full responsibility for what happened," he told the news conference, held at his seaside palace. A diplomat close to the affair said. Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz reiterated in a letter published Saturday that the Iraqi arsenal had been dismantled and that Baghdad's recent disclosures did not call into question its commitment to eliminating the weapons completely. Several countries have been trying to persuade Iraq to accept Resolution 986 allowing Baghdad to export limited quantities of oil to earn funds to buy food and medicine. The crippling oil and trade embargo was imposed when Iraq invaded neighbouring Kuwait in August 1990, until being driven out seven months later by a U.S.-led coalition. Kuwaiti Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah said Monday that warnings he recently made about continued Iraqi threats to Kuwait were real and based on documented information. The Al Siyassah daily newspaper last month quoted Sheikh Saad, also prime minister, as saying the three months starting Oct. 15 would be "extremely difficult" for Kuwait and that Iraq might be preparing for another attack on the emirate. His remarks had a negative impact on the economy.

Israel to free 1,000 detainees, evacuate W.Bank town today

Combined agency dispatches ISRAELI PLANS to free some 1,000 Palestinian inmates and hand over one of its occupation offices in the West Bank on Tuesday, but a Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) official expressed concern over the slow implementation of the peace accord. "There was a decision that more than 1,000 men will be released on Tuesday," said Aliza Goren, spokeswoman for Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. She said the prisoners would include those convicted of "criminal and security offences." Under the Washington accord, Israel will move troops from six West Bank towns and from parts of Hebron, where 400 Jewish settlers live among 120,000 Palestinians. Israel will also hand over civilian authority in some 450 villages and towns to the PLO but would maintain overall security there. Under the accord, Israel was to have begun redeploying its troops on Oct. 8. The Israeli army meanwhile extended for another week the closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip until the end of the Jewish holidays, a military spokesman said. The closures had been due to be lifted at dawn Tuesday, but will now end next Tuesday, Oct. 17. The Gaza Strip was sealed off on Sept. 20, followed by the West Bank on Sept. 27, on the eve of the signing in Washington of the Israeli-PLO accord. The closures have already been extended twice since they were slapped on the two areas, preventing 30,000 Palestinians from travelling to work in Israel and badly affecting income. Israel Radio said the measure was taken to thwart any attacks by Palestinian hardliners to mar the Washington ceremony. Senior Israeli and PLO officers met in Gaza on Sunday to discuss a timetable for Israeli army redeployment. Tayeb Abdul Rahim, an aide to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, said the PLO was worried about the timetable for Israeli army redeployment and with the failure to release all female prisoners as stipulated by the agreement. The start of implementation of the agreement with the Israeli side is not encouraging and does not provide much comfort," said Mr. Abdul Rahim, secretary-general of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). He said the Israeli side at the meeting "were acting as if they were trying to impose on us an agreement other than what we had agreed upon." Israeli and PLO officials said on Monday that the Israeli army intends to start evacuation offices in the West Bank this week beginning with its office in Salfit village on Tuesday. Salfit Mayor Hassan Al Azeer said Israeli officers briefed village leaders on Sunday on evacuation plans and told them to prepare for the handover on Tuesday. He said the Israelis had already taken out all equipment. Israeli officials said three other offices would be closed by the end of the week.

Sabotage suspected in Amtrak derailling

GILA BEND, Arizona (AFP) — A cross-country passenger train hurtled off sabotaged tracks into a ravine in the Arizona desert Monday, killing one person and injuring 100, authorities said. "The track has been tampered with," Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio said, adding that there was other evidence of sabotage which he said he could not disclose. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) also opened an investigation, officials said. A crew member was killed and at least 30 people were in critical condition, said Norman Jones, spokesman for the Arizona State Department of Public Safety. Mr. Jones said an engineer aboard the train had seen something "suspicious" on the tracks just before the crash occurred. The Amtrak "Sunset Limited" was carrying about 250 passengers from New Orleans, Louisiana to Los Angeles, California, when it went off the rails at 2:20 a.m. (0920 GMT) in a remote stretch of barren desert northwest of Gila Bend, Arizona. "The car was beginning to twist and turn," a passenger told CNN. "Then it slowly tilted as it was moving and shaking and then, suddenly, boom!" Most of the passengers were sleeping when the train hit the brakes and went careering off the track, passengers said. "We opened the windows to get the people out. There were a lot of people shocked in that car," another passenger told CNN. "It was very difficult." A dormitory car, two sleepers, a diner, lounge, two coaches and a baggage car derailed, Amtrak said. Four of the cars tumbled off a trestle into a dry ravine, it said. The 12-car train's two locomotives stayed on the track, it said. The train, which ordinarily originates in Miami, Florida, took on passengers in New Orleans and additional cars in San Antonio, Texas. It was the second fatal crash for the Sunset Limited since Sept. 22, 1993, when it went off a trestle bridge and into a Bayou north of Mobile, Alabama, killing 47 passengers and crew. Last year, an engineer was killed and 370 people injured when an Amtrak "Silver Meteor" derailed near Selma, North Carolina, while travelling from Miami to New York. Helicopters filled the sky as Blackhawk choppers of the Arizona National Guard joined 11 medical helicopters to take out the wounded.

Bosnia truce delayed until Sarajevo utilities restored

SARAJEVO (AP) — Bosnia's latest ceasefire was delayed Monday after a tense day of shelling, NATO airstrikes and failure to restore utilities to Sarajevo. "It will not happen because the conditions have not been met yet," said Hasan Muratovic, the Bosnian government's minister in charge of relations with the United Nations. The ceasefire had been scheduled to take effect at one minute after midnight (2301 GMT Monday). Mr. Muratovic, appearing on Bosnian television, said both the government and the Bosnian Serbs did as much as they could to restore electricity and natural gas service to Sarajevo, but could not get the job done. He said the truce will take effect as soon as that work is done. Restoration of utilities to Sarajevo was a key condition of a ceasefire accord brokered last week by the United States. Earlier Monday, NATO planes attacked Serb targets in northeastern Bosnia after Serb shelling of government troops killed a Norwegian peacekeeper and claimed dozens of civilian casualties. Alliance spokesman Captain Mark Van Dyke said that two NATO aircraft dropped laser-guided bombs on Serb command-and-control posts near Tuzla. The attack came amid a surge in shelling and fighting in Bosnia in advance of the scheduled ceasefire. U.N. spokeswoman Major Myrland Sochacki said in Sarajevo that two shells hit close to the Tuzla airport Monday afternoon, injuring one Norwegian peacekeeper. "He died on his way to the hospital," said Maj. Sochacki. U.N. officials said the death led to the airstrike. A U.N. official in Zagreb, Croatia, said the air attack occurred at 4:25 a.m. (1525 GMT) and NATO's target was southeast of Tuzla. The air raids were the first NATO military action since Oct. 4, when three missiles were fired at a Bosnian Serb radar. Despite the sharp increase in shelling and fighting — which has contributed to the failure of dozens of other truces over 3½ years — Bosnian officials cited the utility problem as the main reason for delaying this ceasefire.

900 stranded Palestinians plan border hunger-strike

SALLOUM (AFP) — Some 900 Palestinians thrown out of Libya and trapped at its border with Egypt have announced they would begin a hunger strike on Tuesday to protest being barred from their homeland. The strike is "to protest the inability of Arab governments to assure our return to Palestine faced with Israeli intransigence," one of the Palestinians told AFP on Monday. He said the Palestinians had sent messages to the United Nations, the Arab League and the U.N. Human Rights Commission announcing the strike and asking for help to get to the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. A group of 200 stranded Palestinians had blocked the road through the international zone between the borders in protests on Saturday and backed down only after setting a 72-hour grace period before restarting the protests. The deadline runs out Tuesday if a solution is not found to their plight, an official at the Salloom border post said. Another 30 expelled Palestinians arrived from Libya on Monday in the camp set up by Tripoli in the 300-metre no man's land between the Egyptian and Libyan borders, the official said. He said a top-level Libyan security official met with Egyptian security authorities at Ras Al Hikma, near Marsa Matruh, 320 kilometres into Egypt from the border. The two sides "discussed ways to solve the problem of the expelled Palestinians," the border official said without identifying the officials or providing details. Most of the 900 have been trapped in the desert zone for more than 10 days after being refused entry by Egypt because they did not have proper papers allowing their passage onto another country. They left Libya after its leader Muammar Qadhafi began a campaign to expel the 30,000 Palestinians living on his country's soil back to Gaza and the West Bank. Colonel Qadhafi, presenting himself as the "protector" of the Palestinians, began the expulsions in a bid to prove the "failure" of Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) self-rule accords, insisting Palestinians should be allowed to return home. The Egyptian daily *Al Akhbar* quoted on Monday high-level sources as saying a meeting between Qadhafi and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was "expected soon to show the (good) relations between the two countries." The sources told the government paper that "the problem of the expulsions is on its way to being solved and a number of (Palestinians) will be transported to the Gaza Strip." The two leaders would also discuss in their meeting "the latest employment in the Lockerbie affair," the paper said. A "high Palestinian official" in Gaza told the government daily *Al Ahras* that 100 Palestinian families would enter the Strip from Libya "within the next few days." "An agreement has been reached for the return of 100 families living in Libya to Gaza in the next few days once Qadhafi changes his (expulsion) decision and returns the remaining expelled Palestinians" to Libya, *Al Ahras* said in its Monday edition. The source appeared to be referring to the return of Palestinians stranded in no man's land. Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa met Col. Qadhafi in Libya near the Egyptian border on Friday to persuade him to back off the campaign and to hand him a message from Mr. Mubarak. Arab diplomatic sources in Cairo said Mr. Musa also reminded the Libyan leader of "what Egypt has done (for Libya) in the Lockerbie affair." Cairo, while respecting the air embargo imposed on Libya in 1992, has mediated for Libya with the United States and Britain, which accuse Tripoli of harbouring two suspects in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am flight over Lockerbie, Scotland, in which 270 people died.

11 election hopefuls from Muslim Brotherhood are arrested in Egypt

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian police detained on Monday 11 prominent members of the Muslim Brotherhood in a nationwide security crackdown, a spokesman for the group said.

Mamoun Hudeibi said the detainees — academics, lawyers and doctors — were taken into custody shortly after they were fingerprinted before officially declaring themselves candidates in November's parliamentary elections.

"It's not a coincidence, that much I can tell you," said Mr. Hudeibi, whose deputy, Mohammad Ghareib, was among those arrested. "We sit here everyday and wait for whom else they're going to take in. I mean what's preventing them from doing it?"

The arrests are the latest to hit the group, the largest and most influential in the country, and which the Brotherhood says are aimed at preventing its members from taking part in the elections.

The government denies this, but has arrested more than 150 members since the beginning of the year. It also began associating the organisation with the armed

Islamist groups trying to overthrow President Hosni Mubarak's rule and install a strict Islamic state.

Islamists, opposition parties and civil rights activists have attacked the government for trying the Brotherhood leaders at military courts because they are civilians who committed non-violent offences.

The latest seven detainees included were university professors or doctors. They were picked up in a dawn raid in Cairo and other governorates.

The Interior Ministry refused to comment on the arrests.

The Brotherhood spokesman said none of the men had announced their candidacy but were expected to run as independents in November.

Chief among those arrested was Abdul Menem Abdul Fattah, former head of the medical union and a candidate in the parliament elections, police said.

Police accused them of "supporting terrorist elements in a number of provinces with necessary funds and aiding the families of fugitive militants."

"The financial support was part of the Brotherhood's backing of extremist forces to ensure their support to legislative elections," police said.

They added they had uncovered a large number of "organisational documents," which showed the Brotherhood also planned to create a new political party, the Egyptian Salvation Party.

Those arrested included the head of the scientists' union, Al Sayed Al Abdul Sitar Al Miligi, according to a list sent by the Brotherhood to AFP.

The remainder were leading union figures as well as parliamentary candidates. One was a member of the team of lawyers defending the 49 Brothers already on trial before a military court.

3 killed in south

A teenager and two Muslim militants were shot dead in two separate incidents near the town of Malawi, 300 kilometres south of Cairo, police said on Monday.

Bikr Ragab Hamed, 15, was killed when a soldier enforcing a curfew in Al Roda village accidentally fired his weapon late Sunday, police said.

Towns in Minya province, especially Malawi, have come under police curfew since the region became centre stage for attacking by Muslim militants.

Meanwhile, police killed two militants while conducting a security sweep in sugar cane fields between Nawai and Ashmunin village outside Malawi.

The two militants opened fire on the police patrol, which returned fire and shot them both dead. Militants often use the high-growing cane fields as hideouts.

The two killed had yet to be identified, police said.

The deaths brought to 891 the number killed since March 1992 in a confrontation between the police and militants seeking to overthrow the government of President Mubarak.

Journalists set deadline

Egypt's journalists have set a Dec. 24 deadline for the government to draw up a press law to replace a tough one they say suppresses freedom of expression, the daily Al Ahrar reported on Monday.



BBC VISITS GAZA: Palestinians in Gaza City on Sunday surround the British Broadcasting Corporation's (BBC) double-decker which is touring the Middle East as part of a publicity campaign for the BBC's Arabic-language service (AFP photo)

Lebanese businessmen to attend MENA conference

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — More than a dozen Lebanese businessmen will participate in this month's Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit in Amman despite their country's official boycott of the event, sources in the business community said Monday.

"The private sector does not feel itself bound by the political position adopted by the government," said one source. "Many Lebanese businessmen believe that they stand the risk of being left out completely from the opportunities that the occasion presents itself."

"Lebanese businessmen have to be there at the conference at least to know for themselves what is going on and what role, direct or indirect, they can play in an era of peace in the region," added the source.

Conspicuous by their absence at the Oct. 29-31 summit will be the governments of Syria and Lebanon, which argue that it is premature to discuss regional economic cooperation involving Israel since they have yet to make breakthroughs in their peace negotiations with the Jewish state.

At the same time, both countries will be attending a European Union (EU) conference in Barcelona, Spain, in late November along with Israel and other Mediterranean countries, including Jordan.

According to the business community sources, the Lebanese government is not barring businessmen from attending the Amman conference. But the Syrian government has implicitly warned off Syrian businessmen, according to the sources.

A provisional list made available to the Jordan Times indicated that there will be at least five participants from Lebanon at the MENA summit. They include representatives of Banque Paribas, Gargour Brothers, Unicamerik and Jammal Trust Bank.

However, according to the sources, "more than a dozen others" have also confirmed their participation but they do not want their names to be formally released at this point in time.

The list does not contain any Syrian businessmen. However, several Syrian nationals who hold dual nationality are expected to be at the summit representing European companies.

The public position adopted by Damascus and

Carey calls for end to Sudan civil war

JUBA (AP) — They came by the thousands from the countryside, lining the road from the airport to the cathedral. The message they heard was simple: "We have suffered enough."

Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey arrived in the heart of southern Sudan, speaking to victims of a 12-year civil war largely forgotten by the rest of the world. He urged an end to the fighting that has killed an estimated 1.3 million people and displaced hundreds of thousands of others in squalid camps.

"I appeal to the government to seek for peace. I appeal to the Sudan people's liberation army to seek for peace. I appeal to the government of the neighbouring countries to appeal for peace," Mr. Carey said in the provincial capital of Juba Sunday.

About 75,000 Sudanese gathered to hear Mr. Carey speak at a moving, open-air service outside the All Saints' Cathedral in this town whose fate has mirrored that of the war.

About 1,200 kilometres south of Sudan's capital, Khartoum, Juba has been besieged intermittently since the mid-1980s by rebels seeking autonomy from the Muslim-dominated government. Human rights groups have accused both sides of executions and massacres of civilians in the region.

"You are not forgotten," Mr. Carey told the crowd. "I know all about your suffering in this country."

"We have suffered enough," he added.

Mr. Carey, who leads 70 million Anglicans worldwide, planned to visit Sudan in 1994. The Islamist government, however, demanded that he visit as a guest of the state. He refused, fearing that the government might try to restrict his movement.

Filipina maid's appeal hearing adjourned

AL 'AIN (AP) — The appeal hearing of a 16-year-old Filipina maid sentenced to death for stabbing her employer to death was adjourned to Oct. 30 following a closed session Monday that lasted more than an hour.

Sarah Balabagan, a Muslim from the Philippines' southern Mindanao province, was led into the courtroom in handcuffs and escorted by two policemen. She sat inside an iron cage at the no-jury court and brought out when summoned by the judge.

Minutes into the proceedings, presiding Judge Biyah Ben Al Salik ordered about 100 spectators and journalists inside the courtroom to leave. The decision was made at the request of defence lawyer Mohammad Al Amin, he said.

Defence attorneys later said they made the request on instructions from the Philippines embassy and a senior official of the Information

Ministry said the decision was made because Ms. Balabagan was going to testify on details of the alleged rape attempt by her 85-year-old employer.

It was in the same courthouse last month that Ms. Balabagan was sentenced to death by a no-jury Islamic court for the murder in Al 'Ain of Almas Mohammad Al Baloushi. She said she had killed him when he tried to rape her at knife-point.

Court documents showed she had stabbed him 34 times. "I want Sarah executed," Faraj Al Baloushi, one of the victim's sons, said after Monday's session.

In contrast, some 700 Muslims and Christians displayed a rare show of unity Monday when they rallied in a southern Philippines town to seek divine intervention for Ms. Balabagan.

Defence lawyers said the crux of their defence lay in exposing flaws in the previous trial.

Salman Lutfi, one of the lawyers defending Ms. Balabagan, said the penal code under which his client had been charged called for a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

He said the court also had "overlooked important forensic evidence and testimony by a physician proving there was attempted rape," he said, adding that the defence wanted an acquittal.

About an hour after Monday's proceedings began, police entered the courthouse and plastered on bulletin boards seven large photographs showing Baloushi lying in a pool of blood.

Television crews were allowed to film the photographs but there was no immediate explanation of the police action.

Ms. Balabagan's case has become a cause celebre, both in the Philippines and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which has been surprised at the negative public

city generated by it.

Philippines President Fidel Ramos has dispatched several envoys to help with Ms. Balabagan's appeal, including former Supreme Court Judge and Islamic law expert Abdul Wahid Bidin.

The tens of thousands of Filipinos working in this oil-rich Arab country have been holding prayer sessions for Ms. Balabagan since she was sentenced to death Sept. 16.

She had initially been sentenced to seven years in prison at an earlier trial in June. But that verdict was quashed and a retrial was ordered by the government following protests in the Philippines that the girl should have been acquitted.

But the September death sentence caused another uproar in the Philippines, where the government is anxious to avoid a repeat of the diplomatic row which erupted in March over the execution in Singapore of a Filipina maid.

Lebanon launches safety campaign

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon has launched a five-year injury prevention campaign to reduce the growing number of accidents on the country's battered roads, in the workplace — namely on the post-war reconstruction sites — and at home.

The campaign is backed by the health, interior, education and information ministries and aims to remind people of safety standards that have been forgotten during the 15-year civil war.

A month-long media campaign launched on Sept. 15 is focusing on accidents caused by drunk driving, failure to use seat belts and speeding.

It will be followed by an awareness campaign targeting schoolchildren and a nationwide poll to identify the most frequent accidents and how to deal with them, said campaign coordinator

Peggy Hanna.

"In 1990 there were 2,000 road accidents in Lebanon. Two years later, the number has doubled. From January until August this year we have had 6,000 accidents," said Ghassan Maaluf, an orthopedic surgeon.

Dr. Maaluf, who heads the national campaign, said speeding was "the number one killer of teenagers in Lebanon," where more than 500 people have died in the first nine months of 1995.

For Dr. Maaluf the priorities are to make automobile insurance compulsory in Lebanon and enforce the 1977 law requiring the use of seat belts.

"Half the patients at the Beit Shabab centre for the handicapped are victims of car accidents," he said in reference to a rehabilitation

institute which opened during the conflict with the specific purpose of caring for victims of the war.

He added that the Health Ministry was spending \$12 to \$15 million each year on emergency care for accident victims.

According to the Association of Lebanese Insurance Companies (ACAL) only 220,000 vehicles are insured in Lebanon, a country of 1.4 million cars for around four million inhabitants. Experts say 55,000 cars are imported monthly.

The Interior Ministry, meanwhile, introduced several amendments to the outdated 1967 highway code, namely raising all fines involving traffic violations 10-fold, according to the official gazette.

Motorists are banned, for the first time, from drinking and driving, using mobile

phones while driving and throwing trash from the windows, while bikers have to wear helmets.

"From now on people will have to think twice before committing traffic violations," Interior Minister Michel Murr warned this week.

The ministry was also preparing a special awareness campaign to outline the amendments — the first since 1991 — to the general public, Mr. Murr said.

At high risk also were the thousands of construction workers involved in Lebanon's multi-billion post-war reconstruction schemes and employed by hundreds of private companies across Lebanon.

Beirut newspapers frequently carry reports of workers killed or wounded in construction-related accidents, but no statistics have been available.

Townsend takes over as CAABU director

AMMAN (J.T.) — Cyril D Townsend, a Conservative Party member of the British parliament, took up the post of director of the London-based Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding (CAABU) on Oct. 1.

Mr. Townsend, who has represented the constituency of Bexleyheath since 1974, has enjoyed a long and fruitful association with CAABU,

including serving as joint chairman from 1982 to 1992, a CAABU statement said.

A former military officer, Mr. Townsend has extensive experience of the Middle East and has made numerous visits to the region. He is at present chairman of the Conservative Middle East Council and writes a weekly column for the Arabic-language newspaper Al Hayat.

Mr. Townsend, who will be working for CAABU on a part-time basis, proposes to devote his energies to restoring the council's high profile, particularly in diplomatic, media and academic circles, the statement said.

He will be available to comment on current political events in the Arab World and welcomes contact with the media, it added.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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PROGRAMME TWO

14:00 Captain Planet
14:30 M.A.N.T.I.S.
15:00 To Run The Country
16:00 I Love Lucy
16:30 Tarzan
17:00 Children's Programme — Les Mondes Engrutis
17:30 Serie — Fruits Et Legumes
18:00 Monique
19:00 News in French
19:15 Faut Pas Rêver
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 The Pigeon Files
20:00 You Bet Your Life
20:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
21:15 Drama — True Blue
22:00 News in English
22:25 Film: "Blind Justice"
23:59 Grace Under Fire
00:30 Varieties

PRAYER TIMES

05:14 Fajr
06:11 Sunrise (Sunrise) Doha
11:23 Dhuhr
14:41 Asr
17:15 Maghreb
18:32 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedisch, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 623366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 652626
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 652526
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328
German-speaking Evangelical Community Tel. 684195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Moderate weather conditions will prevail during the day becoming relatively cool at night with winds northwesterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 13/28

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:
Dr. Mukhlis Halasah 819230
Dr. Fayez Dabbas 819101
Dr. Arif Al Ashhab 819207
Dr. Munther Al Orini 894286
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 649495
Shmehani pharmacy 637681
Najm pharmacy 626702
Najm pharmacy 847632
IRBID:
Dr. Ali Al Omari 272032
Alquds pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Walid Halasah 982799
Khalifah pharmacy 985417

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue Police 192 621111 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 608080
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Telebans 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

EMERGENCIES

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 81381332
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642341h
Akash Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mulhas, J. Amman 636140
Palsine, Shmehani 6641714
Shmehani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 848455
Al-Musharraf Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Adhali 66612707
Al-Ahli, Adhali 6641849
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 7771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafiah 7751126
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 686101
Antal Hospital 89166132
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)963323
Zarqa National Hospital 1620
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)960532
Al-Hana Modern Hospital (09)960491
IBRID:
Princess Baena Hospital (02)273555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272755
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)271700
Princess Haya Hospital (05)314111

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 81381332
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642341h
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Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mulhas, J. Amman 636140
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IBRID:
Princess Baena Hospital (02)273555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272755
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)271700
Princess Haya Hospital (05)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)532915, where it should always be verified.
ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
03:10 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
07:00 Damascus (RJ)
08:55 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:15 Agaba (RJ)
09:35 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
09:50 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:50 Frankfurt (RJ)
17:25 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)
04:20 Vienna (OS)
08:45 Cairo (MS)
13:00 Munich (YP)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
05:40 Beirut (RJ)
07:00 Agaba (RJ)
08:40 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:10 Agaba, Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
11:15 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
11:45 Geneva, Brussels (RJ)
12:10 Paris, Brno (RJ)
13:15 Cairo (RJ)
13:05 London (RJ)
13:30 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
13:40 Larnaca (RJ)
20:20 Jeddah (RJ)
20:45 Damascus (RJ)
21:20 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:30 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)
06:30 Damascus, Paris (AF)
09:45 Cairo (MS)
13:00 Khartoum (SD)
13:40 Vienna (OS)
13:55 Sharm Al Sheikh, Munich (YP)
15:20 Damascus (AZ)
19:15 Doha (EK)
21:00 Aden (DY)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:40 every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday
MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in ffs per kg.
Apples 700/800
Bananas 600
Bananas (Mukammal) 620
Cabbage 180/160
Carrots 450/250
Cauliflower 300/180
Cucumbers (large) 320/220
Cucumbers (small) 250/160
Eggplant 250/160
Garlic 700/500
Grapes 700/500
Lemon 600/500
Mushrooms 250/200
Marrow (large) 220/120
Marrow (small) 220/120
Molokhia 340/160
Okra 900/750
Onions (green) 250/250
Olives (dry) 250/150
Pepper (hot) 220/150
Pepper (sweet) 300/150
Pomegranate 320/220
Potatoes 300/200
Spinach 300/200



His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein Sunday evening opens the 28th Annual General Assembly of the World Airlines Clubs Associations at the InterContinental Hotel (Petra photo)

Main WACA deliberations begin today

AMMAN (Petra) — The World Airlines Clubs Association's (WACA) annual general assembly will officially open its deliberations in Amman Tuesday following two days of preparatory meetings.

The conference, inaugurated Sunday by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal who deputised for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, will continue discussion of topics earlier taken up by its sub-committees here Monday.

Ramzi Shweihat, president of the Jordan Interline Club (JIC), which is hosting the WACA meeting, the first in the Middle East,

said the preparatory meetings discussed relations among world airlines clubs (known as the Interline clubs) and means of enhancing their joint programmes.

Mr. Shweihat said the participants also discussed means of developing communication methods between Interline clubs around the world and voluntary works carried by them, especially in the area of rehabilitating the handicapped.

The participants also spoke about touristic attractions in their countries with the aim of promoting the tourism industry and the concept of global friendship.

Participants in the conference represent the five areas of the Interline clubs — the Near East and Africa, the Far East, Europe, South America and the Caribbean and North America.

Mr. Shweihat said that after the conclusion of the five-day conference the participants will visit tourist and archaeological sites around the Kingdom which will greatly improve their ability to market Jordan as a tourist site at the international level.



Her Royal Highness Princess Rania Abdullah Monday meets with officials at the Jordan Trade Association (Petra photo)

Princess Rania calls for increased exchange between trade groups

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Rania Abdullah Monday visited the Jordan Trade Association (JTA) and met its president, Ziyad Fariz, and JTA staff to review the association's activities in promoting exports.

The Princess emphasised the importance of strengthening JTA ties with the Jordan Exports Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCO) in promoting exports to traditional and non-traditional markets abroad.

Princess Rania also underlined the need for stepping up the exchange of information between JTA and JEDCO which takes advantage of its participation in international trade fairs.

JTA Executive Director Halim Abu Rahmeh outlined the objectives of the JTA, which was created in 1989 and currently has 90 industrial firms on its membership roster.

Mr. Abu Rahmeh said the JTA provides information on foreign markets for Jordanian exporters and organises the participation of Jordanian firms in international trade fairs. It also arranges for visits by trade groups from Jordan to foreign countries.

The JTA is currently upgrading its operations through the world information network (Internet) to provide local manufacturers and exporters up-to-date information on world markets, according to Mr. Abu Rahmeh.

Indonesian team discusses commercial, scientific linkages with officials

AMMAN (Petra) — Transport Minister and Acting Minister of Planning Samir Kavar Monday discussed with a visiting Indonesian parliamentary delegation means of enhancing Jordanian-Indonesian relations in economic and commercial fields.

Mr. Kavar briefed the delegation on the economic situation and the investment climate in Jordan as well as laws and regulations introduced by the government recently to attract investors to the Kingdom.

He said projects which will be presented at the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit, to open in Amman on Oct. 29, constitute a good opportunity for businessmen and the private sector.

The minister underlined

the important role the Indonesian government could play in promoting bilateral relations and increasing commercial exchange between the two countries by importing Jordanian minerals, such as phosphates, potash and phosphoric acid.

He said furthering cooperation between the two countries will eventually prompt them to open regular air routes and marine lines linking the port of Aqaba with that of Jakarta.

The head of the Indonesian delegation, Ismail Hassan, stressed that his country will play an active role in the Amman economic summit, saying the Indonesian minister of economy will head the country's delegation of public and private sector representatives to the summit.

He noted that his visit to

the Kingdom at the present time aims to enhance bilateral relations with Jordan and to seek out new investment opportunities, namely in light of the economic openness witnessed in Jordan.

Also Monday, the Indonesian delegation was received by Secretary General of the Foreign Ministry Ibrahim Naghaway who briefed its members on regional and international issues of common interest.

Mr. Naghaway also spoke of the latest developments in the Middle East peace process and Jordan's focal role in it, lauding Indonesia's stands on Arab causes and its support for the peace process.

The secretary general also reviewed Jordanian-Indonesian cooperation in various fields, including economic, industrial, cul-

tural and scientific areas, and expressed the Kingdom's keenness to advance such ties.

On Sunday afternoon the Indonesian team had visited the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and met with Vice-President, Said Alloush, and Assistant Secretary General of the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) Khaled Shreideh.

Dr. Alloush briefed the delegation on the RSS role in conducting research to serve the industrial and technological sectors and contribute to national development.

He said the RSS's activities include conducting field research and offering advisory and technical services to various sectors, in addition to providing industry related short and long term training courses.

For his part, Dr. Shreideh, briefed the delegation on the HCST's establishment and objectives as well as its contributions to economic and industrial development in the Kingdom.

Dr. Shreideh said the council follows a national policy on science and technology to achieve its objectives and works on establishing scientific institutions necessary for the development process.

The council, he added, also supports scientific studies and guides and coordinates scientific research in Jordan.

Mr. Hassan voiced his country's desire to enhance scientific cooperation between Jordanian and Indonesian institutions.

Private sector panel to submit 5 finance projects at MENA

AMMAN (Petra) — The Finance and Investments Sub-committee set up by the private sector's executive committee preparing for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit, has come up with a list of five projects for the summit, according to the sub-committee's rapporteur Ziyad Basha.

In a statement Monday, Mr. Basha said these projects included the creation of a centre or agency for credit rating, a re-insurance company, a deposit and transfer centre, a data bank and a regional training centre.

He said the sub-committee did not assess the cost of these projects because it has the capability to cover their cost. Neither does it aim to acquire partners in investment because these partners are already available, Mr. Basha said.

The sub-committee aims to inform international

investors that Jordan merely seeks to develop the financial infrastructure of its institutions and its systems and instruments as well as to acquire the modern technical means to achieve this.

Mr. Basha said that the first Jordanian financial institution was set up in 1907. At present Jordan boasts 71 financial institutions which maintain strong ties with foreign banks and international financial institutions.

Of the 71 banks, 65 banks are owned and operated by the private sector, Mr. Basha said. The banks employ 94,920 people.

Following parliament's endorsement of the new investments law last month, representatives of major international credit rating institutions visited the Kingdom to assess the new finance environment and to offer ideas and proposals for its development.

JBA to prepare information file on Jordanian-Egyptian private sectors

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA) says it is preparing a comprehensive file on the relationship between the Jordanian and Egyptian private sectors to be submitted next month to the Jordan-Egypt Business Council meeting.

According to a JBA statement Monday, the meeting, entitled, "The present situation and future prospects," will be held in Cairo between Nov. 7 and 10 and will be attended by at least 50 Jordanian businessmen representing various national economic sectors.

The Jordanian delegation to the meeting will be led by JBA Chairman Hamdi Tabbaa and will include



Hamdi Tabbaa, several association council members, the statement said. The Jordan-Egypt Business Council was established 10 years ago, and over the past years the council has held five meetings alternately in Amman and Cairo.

In these meetings, the council usually discusses promoting trade exchanges between Jordan and Egypt and submits recommendations to the two countries' governments on ways to facilitate trade and investments by individuals or companies, according to the statement.

It said that the sixth meeting, which will be held next month, is designed to discuss in particular the execution of joint economic ventures.

Deputies blame government

(Continued from page 12) and answers is not enough." Centrist deputies had also their share of grievances. Deputy Anwar Haddid described the one-person, one-vote law as a catastrophe and complained of the lack of basic facilities to deputies — mainly the small number of offices assigned to deputies. He also said deputies were frustrated and embarrassed after the lack of public awareness to his/her role as lawmaker.

group of the European Peoples Party at the European Parliament, said there would be difficulties in amending the constitution.

Dr. Westenbroek, lauded what he described as the frankness of participants and their constructive ideas but criticised Mr. Abu Nowar's comments as undemocratic.

"There should be freedom of speech here and I was hurt to see that it was prevented," he said. "The exercise of democracy failed to a certain extent."

Our voters expect us to oppose the government's policies while they want us to provide services for them," Deputy Haddid said. "Islamists and leftists do not face this difficulty."

Senator Ma'an Abu Nowar, who lashed out at one of the House's secretariat employees — Hassan Abdullah — for demanding administrative independence and criticising paragraphs in the Constitution, highly praised the performance of Parliament but called for better procedures for the question-answer sessions.

Jan Westenbroek, deputy secretary general of the

Participants at the three-day seminar drew several recommendations that included calls for:

- Increasing the regular parliamentary session to six or eight months;
- Giving more access to parliamentarians to propose draft laws;
- Improving the basic services offered to deputies;
- Preventing the dissolution of parliament; and
- Drawing new bylaws and taking the appropriate steps to include democratic rules and principles in curricula at schools and universities.

ICRC visits

(Continued from page 12) oners for the first time in three years.

Khiam is located across the border from Israel, which has around 1,000 troops deployed in the "security

zone."

All Khiam inmates there are held on charges of aiding and abetting guerrilla attacks launched to dislodge Israel from the enclave it set up in 1985 as a buffer against cross-border guerrilla attacks on its northern areas.



Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Razzak Ensour Monday opens an international conference on seismology (Petra photo)

Minister urges experts to employ earthquake resistant techniques in construction

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Razzak Ensour Monday opened a three-day international conference on seismology urging countries to exchange information, expertise and modern technology.

Attended by 80 delegates from eight Arab states and seven foreign countries, the conference is focusing on working papers dealing with geology, seismology and tremors, resistance of installations to earthquakes and means of minimising earthquake damage.

Mr. Ensour urged the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) to maintain cooperation with various research centres around the world and exchange data related to earthquakes.

He underlined the need for the construction of earthquake resistant buildings, adding that the engineering sector bears a serious responsibility towards safety. He stressed that future construction requires the adoption of modern scientific techniques.

The minister also urged Jordanian organisations to

apply the Jordanian National Building Code which, he said, guarantees minimum safety against earthquakes.

JEA board member Mohammad Abu Afifeh said the conference aims at providing a solid base for the exchange of ideas and expertise and also a forum in which to hear the latest results of research work in seismology.

He called for a comprehensive study on the buildings in Jordan, particularly in Amman, with a view to making them earthquake-resistant.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILMS

- * Video films entitled "Bouillon du Culture" and "Les Fables de la Fontaine" at the French Cultural Centre at 6.00pm.
- * "Picasso" at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman at 6.00pm.
- * Documentary film on the life of the late president Jamal Abdul Nasser at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 6.30pm.

LECTURE

- * "Mona Saudi—Artist and Sculptor" (In Arabic) by Nazeh Khair at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh at 6.00pm.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Arabic calligraphy by Ali 'Abadi at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street.
- * A Retrospective Exhibition of Sculptures and Drawings (1965-1995) by Mona Saudi at Darat Al

Funun, Jabal Weibdeh.

- * Graphic design by Iraqi artist Kazem Shamhoud at Orfali Art Gallery, Um Utheina.
- * Painting and sculpture by Rafiq Lahham and Laith Al Turk at the Italian Language Centre Gallery, Shmeisani.
- * Abstract art by the Syrian artist Mohammad Daghestani at the Phoenix Gallery.

- * Selected works by the young and the established at The Gallery, Hotel InterContinental.

- * Works by Lamia Abdel Sahib and Samer Ousama entitled "Aux Sources Orientales de la Fontaine," at the French Cultural Centre.

NEWS

- * The McNeil-Lehrer News Hour at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.

Russians call temporary halt to Chechenya accord

MOSCOW (R) — Russian negotiators called a temporary halt to implementation of a disarmament and troop reduction agreement in rebel Chechenya Monday following a bomb attack on the commander of Russian forces in the region.

Interfax News Agency quoted Major-General Viktor Vlasenkov as saying a joint Russian-Chechen commission had taken the decision "in connection with the deteriorating situation and the serious condition of co-chairman of the commission Lieutenant-General Anatoly Romanov".

But Vladimir Udagov, spokesman for separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, said the Chechen members of the commission had opposed the move, saying it would only make things worse.

The Chechens had also opposed a Russian proposal to move commission meetings and the mission of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) from Grozny, Mr. Udagov said, quoted by Interfax.

Meanwhile 40 people died and 20 were injured in Russian air raids at the

weekend against two villages in Chechenya, the Interfax News Agency reported Monday citing Chechen sources.

The sources said the Sunday raids targeted the village of Roshny-Chu, located 35 kilometres south-west of the capital Grozny, and Mesker-Yurt, located 25 kilometres east of Grozny.

The Sunday raids were carried out by two jets that flew from Azerbaijan, a Russian military source was quoted as saying.

Tension in the rebel region has increased sharply since Friday's attack on Gen. Romanov, a major advocate of peace who now lies unconscious and severely wounded in a Moscow hospital.

President Boris Yeltsin was meeting top advisers Monday to decide whether to impose a state of emergency in Chechenya but separatist leaders say this would derail peace moves.

Mr. Yeltsin was considering his next move after Gen. Romanov, was gravely injured.

"It is my opinion that a state of emergency must be imposed in Grozny," Russian Interior Minister Anatoly Kulikov, echoing a

proposal by the government, said in a television interview.

Mr. Yeltsin's envoy in the north Caucasus region, Oleg Lobov, who survived a bomb attack last month, said hostile forces were trying to torpedo talks on turning a shaky ceasefire into a permanent end to the conflict over Chechenya's independence bid.

"Effective measures are needed to neutralise the forces that are trying to light the flame of war again," he said in a statement from Grozny.

But Mr. Udagov warned Moscow that tough action would jeopardise peace negotiations.

"The introduction of a state of emergency in Grozny will mean in effect that the Russian leadership has given in to the terrorists," ITAR-TASS news agency quoted Mr. Udagov, as saying.

He said the separatists would abide by a faltering agreement under which they are to disarm and the Russians are to withdraw most of their troops, sent in last December.

But he said a state of emergency would spell the end of a joint commission

monitoring implementation of the agreement, signed on July 30. "This would automatically mean that implementation of the military agreement would halt," he said.

Mr. Udagov, in separate remarks to Interfax News Agency, said the rebels would meet a deadline to hand in their big guns by Tuesday and completely disarm by Oct. 25.

"I declare officially we are ready to strictly observe this timetable," he said, although Russian reports say arms are being handed in so slowly that the deadline looks unlikely to be met.

The Russian government asked Mr. Yeltsin Friday to impose emergency measures in Grozny and Mr. Kulikov said Russia reserved the right to use force unless the rebels complied with the July 30 agreement.

An official in Chechenya's Moscow-installed administration said security was being stepped up in Grozny, but TASS said three Interior Ministry servicemen were wounded when a mine blew up in the city.



Pope John Paul II hugs two children who presented him with flowers upon his arrival at the Baltimore-Washington International Airport (AFP photo)

Pope returns from U.S. trip

ROME (AP) — Pope John Paul II returned Monday from a five-day visit to the United States, which included a speech at the United Nations.

The papal plane touched down at 10:10 a.m. (0910 GMT) at Ciampino Airport south of Rome, to conclude the Pope's 68th foreign voyage and fourth to the United States.

U.S. Vice President Al Gore led the delegation at Baltimore-Washington Airport for the Pope's departure Sunday.

The Pope delivered a speech Thursday to mark the 50th anniversary of the United Nations. He also celebrated open air masses, including Sunday in Baltimore's Oriole Park and Saturday in Central Park in New York.

In stadium masses and cathedral addresses during his five-day visit, the Pope returned to familiar themes of his papacy, urging America to rid itself of the "moral blight" of abortion and euthanasia, and to work on behalf of the poor, the disabled, the elderly and people with AIDS.

In a homily not far from the Statue of Liberty, the Pope encouraged a nation that is pondering immigra-

tion limits and welfare cuts to welcome those seeking freedom and to serve the needy.

On Sunday, the Pontiff urged the faithful to heed America's founding fathers and bring religious convictions to bear on political issues.

"Democracy needs virtue, if it is not to turn against everything that it is meant to defend and encourage," he said at Baltimore-Washington Airport. "Democracy stands or falls with the truths and values which it embodies and promotes."

The most lasting impressions of the Pope's visit were not his words — polls show many U.S. Catholics disagree with him on issues ranging from birth control to women priests — but his gentle presence: A stoop-shouldered 75-year-old man believed by many in his 60 million-member U.S. flock to be the vicar of Christ on Earth.

From Central Park, where 130,000 worshippers began gathering at dawn in a natural open-air cathedral, to Giants Stadium, where 88,000 worshippers braved torrential downpours, there rose a familiar chant: "John Paul II, we love you."

At Oriole Park Sunday, 300 gospel singers waved yellow and white Vatican flags and sang the spiritual "I want to be ready when Jesus comes." The stadium had not rocked to such cheers since Cal Ripken broke Lou Gehrig's 56-year-old record of playing in 2,130 straight games.

Later Sunday, a crowd of police estimated at 350,000 watched the Pontiff travel through downtown streets in the Popemobile.

In his departure speech Sunday, the Pope urged the nation to be a model of democracy by respecting life in all stages of development.

"I say to you again, America, in light of your own tradition: Love life, cherish life, defend life, from conception to natural death."

But the speeches are not what Ramon Damian will remember most about the Pope's visit.

Damian, a Mexican immigrant, and his wife and two children were among 20 people sharing a chicken casserole with the Pope Sunday at the Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen.

His reaction to the Pope? "God came to me today."

Armenia, Azerbaijan hold peace talks

MARIEHAMN, Finland (AFP) — Armenia and Azerbaijan began new talks Monday in an effort to resolve the conflict over ownership of Nagorno Karabakh, diplomatic sources said.

Delegates from Azerbaijan and Armenia, as well as Armenian separatists from the Karabakh enclave, arrived in the Finnish port of Mariehamn on the Aaland Islands off southwest Finland for a week of closed door talks aimed at breathing life into increasingly deadlocked negotiations.

Azerbaijan and Armenia's deputy foreign ministers Tofiq Zulfugarov and Vardan Oskanian attended the talks, while Foreign Minister Arkadi Goukassian represented the separatists from Nagorno Karabakh.

Next Monday and Tuesday, the negotiators will be joined by members of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe has entrusted with solving the conflict since 1992.

The Minsk group brings together Germany, the United States, Belarus, France, Hungary, Russia, Sweden and Turkey, as well

as Russia and Finland which are co-presidents.

However, the latest round of talks have little chance of success, diplomatic sources said.

The separatists have fought Azerbaijani forces for six years in an attempt to gain independence for Nagorno Karabakh, an enclave within Azerbaijan, but which is populated mostly by ethnic Armenians.

Fighting between April 1988 and May 1994, when a ceasefire was announced, left more than 20,000 people dead and 500,000 refugees.

Food and medicine, said Lt. Suhardi, head of the search and rescue team.

"The area has become muddy and slippery, making it dangerous and difficult to work and there is also the danger of landslides," he said.

Hundreds of refugees remained in makeshift camps along roadsides and in open fields. Many shivered in the overnight chill rather than taking shelter in those buildings left standing.

"We dare not go back to our home. We are afraid of the aftershocks," said Salmi, the wife of a farmer and mother of three. Like many Indonesians, she uses only one name.

Aftershocks of decreasing intensity are expected for a week or two, officials said.

Victims interred in mass graves as fresh tremors jolt Indonesia

SUNGAIPENUH, Indonesia (AP) — Soldiers hampered by heavy rains Monday suspended the search for more bodies in the rubble of a devastating earthquake on Indonesia's Sumatra island.

The torrential downpour and two overnight aftershocks brought more misery to the survivors of the quake that hit parts of Jambi province in south-central Sumatra with a magnitude of 7 on Saturday.

President Suharto's office said he would visit the area Wednesday.

Officials said at least 100 people died, but only 79 bodies have been recovered so far. Almost 700 people were seriously injured, and about 10,000 buildings were damaged or destroyed. There was no early estimate of the financial loss.

Meanwhile, an earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.3 hit Aceh, the most northern province on Sumatra, at 22:29 p.m. (1529 GMT) Sunday.

The tremor, centred in the Indian Ocean, jolted Aceh's capital, Banda Aceh, but no damage or casualties were reported, said Hari Heru of the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency.

Terrified people ran out on the streets, he said. Banda Aceh is 1,040 kilometres (640 miles) north-west of Sungaipenuh, which is close to the epicentre of Saturday's quake.

On Monday, soldiers stopped digging up the rubble in Sungaipenuh. Instead of working in the heavy rain, the troops will concentrate on repairing electricity lines, rigging up more tents, and distributing

food and medicine, said Lt. Suhardi, head of the search and rescue team.

"The area has become muddy and slippery, making it dangerous and difficult to work and there is also the danger of landslides," he said.

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Life turns beautiful for boy with ugly mug

BEIJING (AFP) — A brilliant student who was rejected by several Chinese universities because he was so ugly has finally been offered a place at another institution after the Education Ministry intervened, the Education Daily reported Monday. Yang Hongwei, who suffers from a congenital deformity, excelled in his secondary-school exams, which theoretically should have opened the door to China's top universities to study physics and computer. But all the universities where he applied turned him down, saying he was so ugly that he might frighten other students, according to press reports last month that stirred the government to action. Yang has now found a place at the Senior School for Electrical and Mechanical Science, in the central province of Henan.

Brad Pitt movie scores box-office hat-trick

LOS ANGELES (R) — Murder and action are the first choices among American moviegoers at the moment. Seven, the murder suspense movie starring Brad Pitt and Morgan Freeman, led the weekend box office charts for a third straight week, earning an estimated \$10.5 million. Assassins, an action-packed thriller, rated second with an estimated \$9.4 million in ticket sales, according to box office tracking firm Exhibitor Relations Inc. Seven has raked in an estimated \$45 million in the past three weeks, Exhibitor Relations said.

Largest Hindu temple in U.S. opens on ranch

AUSTIN, Texas (R) — About 2,000 worshippers celebrated the opening in Texas hill country of what officials say is the biggest Hindu temple in North America. The temple, encompassing about 35,000 square feet (3,200 square metres) and topped by a 90-ft (30-metre) high golden dome, was built on what was once a cattle ranch. The temple is headquarters for the International Society of Divine Love. A spokeswoman for the group said the temple was built in central Texas because its tree-dotted hills resembled some areas of India.

American Indians rally against casino tax plan

ARLINGTON, Virginia (R) — American Indian casino operators want to trump Donald Trump. Along with Las Vegas operators, the New York developer with casino interests in Atlantic City has pressed Congress to tax now-exempt revenues from gambling casinos on Indian reservations, a major source of tribal revenues. The tax would slow the Indians' drive to take a greater share of the \$40 billion-a-year U.S. gambling business.

Hong Kong probes gigolo cop porn scandal

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong police are studying thousands of pictures of naked policemen after one of their anti-vice operations found officers may be posing for raunchy photos for cash, a senior police source said Wednesday. "The pictures have been seen and their veracity is being looked at," said the source, who declined to be named. "Whether they really are policemen, what they were taken for, why, and whether there are any ramifications." The photos, thought to have been part of a fake gigolo racket, showed junior officers in a variety of poses.

Major's party plays down defection

LONDON (R) — Britain's ruling Conservatives tried Monday to play down the body blow to party morale caused by the defection of a former minister to the Labour Party just two days before the Conservative annual conference.

Prime Minister John Major admitted to renegade member of parliament Alan Howarth in a late night telephone call Sunday that his sensational move from right to left across the political spectrum had pained him and was a "nuisance".

"We talked to each other very openly and very honestly. He told me how pained he was by what I had done and what a nuisance it was to him," Mr. Howarth, a former junior education minister and a member of parliament since 1983, told BBC Radio.

In public, however, Mr. Major was upbeat in advance of the party conference, starting in Blackpool Tuesday, which he hopes will lay the foundations for a fifth successive victory at a general election due by mid-1997.

"I believe it was a mistake and I believe he (Howarth) will have to see it as a mis-

take," Mr. Major said late Sunday. "Nothing will distract us from having a very good conference."

"I profoundly disagree with his analysis of the Conservative Party, but nothing will distract us from the task ahead. We have an election to win, and we intend to win it," he told reporters.

In his resignation letter, Mr. Howarth said he believed the government had become arrogant and uncaring to ordinary Britons after 16 years in power and its harshness was "damaging to our democracy."

He was the first sitting Conservative MP to join Labour, which has a 30-point lead in opinion polls after its party conference last week, hailed by commentators as a success.

Mr. Major's majority in the 651-seat parliament is now reduced to seven, or five if an anti-European Conservative, Sir Richard Body, votes against the party as he has threatened to do.

The prime minister's upbeat message of "carry on Conservatives" despite what newspapers called a

shocking blow to the government's standing was echoed by party chairman Brian Mawhinney, who tried to portray Mr. Howarth as maverick outsider.

"I wasn't very impressed by the arguments Alan gave for his eccentric decision," Mr. Mawhinney said. "This is a bright sunny day, there isn't a shadow in sight." Mr. Howarth claims there are up to 40 Conservative MPs who share his misgivings.

"We've got to demonstrate we have a vision right through to the millennium. We've got to use this conference as part of a coherent plan right through to the general election," Mr. Mawhinney told BBC Radio.

Commentators agreed Mr. Howarth's defection would overshadow the proceedings in Blackpool and hamper Mr. Major's attempts to build on his victory in July in a contest for the party leadership.

An opinion poll in Monday's Daily Telegraph showed Labour's lead had grown to 30 points from 28 in early September.

Magazine: Mexican leader's campaign got drug money

BOGOTA (R) — A Colombian magazine alleged Sunday that the Cali drug cartel had donated money to help Mexican leader Ernesto Zedillo win his presidential election last year.

The weekly Cambio 16 newsmagazine quoted an official from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) as saying the cartel had partly funded Mr. Zedillo's campaign.

But the cartel probably did it without Mr. Zedillo's knowledge, the report added, without giving further details.

Mr. Zedillo is due to fly to Washington Monday where he is expected to meet President Bill Clinton and other influential financial and political leaders.

Drug trafficking is expected to be one of the topics on his agenda when he meets Mr. Clinton.

DEA officials say Mexico is a big transshipment point for drugs entering the United States, with about 70 per cent of the cocaine entering the country doing so from its southern neighbour.

The Cali cartel has already been accused of donating more than \$5 million to help Colombian President Ernesto Samper's 1994 campaign, unleashing one of the worst political crises in Colombia's history.

Cambio 16 said the latest information came from testimony given in Washington by the cartel's former treasurer, Guillermo Pallomari.

The local television news programme TV Hoy said Sunday prosecutors would go to Washington this week to interrogate Mr. Pallomari as part of their investigation into alleged drug corruption among Mr. Samper's campaign officials, congressmen and senior public officials.

"They (the United States) consider him one of the most important witnesses that they have on drug corruption," the news magazine said. "In the case of Colombia, he has been an open faucet."

Aquino: World should speak out against rights abuses in Burma

MANILA (AFP) — Former Philippine President Corason Aquino Monday urged world leaders to speak out against the "inhumanity" of the ruling military junta in Burma, which some trade union groups allege are using slave labour.

Mrs. Aquino, whose "people power" revolt toppled the Ferdinand Marcos regime in 1986, said Rangoon and like-minded governments have no right to invoke sovereignty to trample on the civil rights of their citizens.

Burma's ruling junta, called the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), seized power in 1988 and disregarded the results of the 1990 national election won by the opposition. In July it released opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who had been under house arrest since 1989.

Mrs. Aquino told an international conference on Burma in the Philippine capital that "as members of the human race" individuals and governments both had a duty to speak out against human rights abuses, which she described as the "worst form of inhumanity." "for

all nations to do nothing about such inhumanity will be the worst crime of all," she added.

Mrs. Aquino said world leaders should "speak out in a very loud and clear voice," and "the dictatorship would have to listen."

She said the pressure of world opinion in 1977 prevented Marcos from carrying out the execution by firing squad of her late husband, the opposition leader Benigno Aquino, after he was convicted by a military court of rebellion.

However, she said she did not know at the time that Marcos had only "postponed" her husband's execution.

He was assassinated at Manila Airport in 1983. After Marcos was toppled, a court under the new government, led by Corason Aquino, convicted 15 soldiers and a civilian for the murder.

Mrs. Aquino maintains the Marcos family was the real brains behind the assassination, but none of them have been charged in connection with the killing.

The Burma conference was organised here by the Brussels-based International Confederation of

Free Trade Unions (ICFTU). Exiled Burmese dissidents and labour leaders from 11 countries are attending.

The ICFTU claims that aside from repressing its citizens who practice their political rights, the South East Asian country maintained a "rotating organised form of rotating part-time slavery which draws on a pool of about three million people."

The pool is used to work on new roads, runways, hotels, and other tourist infrastructure, it said, adding: "They are often in chains."

Mrs. Aquino is a co-leader of the Kim Dae Jung Foundation, a human rights group organised by the South Korean opposition leader.

She said the group, which also includes former Indian first lady Sonia Gandhi and former Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, recently sent a mission to Rangoon to sound out the junta on the possibility of their visiting Aung San Suu Kyi.

But the junta told the foundation leaders to "wait a little longer," Mrs. Aquino said.

Life turns beautiful for boy with ugly mug
(HONG KONG) — A boy who was once the subject of several Chinese television news programmes because of his ugly face has finally been offered a place at another institution after the Education Ministry intervened. The boy, who was born with a congenital deformity, excelled in his secondary school exams, which theoretically should have opened the door to one of the top universities in the city. But all the universities he applied to turned him down, saying he was ugly. He was then offered a place at a vocational school for the handicapped, where he is now studying. The school principal said the boy's academic achievements were a testament to his determination and hard work.

Brad Pitt movie scores box-office hat-trick
(LOS ANGELES) — The movie "Interview with the Vampire" starring Brad Pitt, scored a third straight week at the top of the weekend box office charts, according to a survey by NPD Entertainment. The film, which costars Pitt as a vampire, has grossed over \$10 million in its first three weeks. The movie is a remake of the 1976 film "Interview with the Vampire" starring Tom Cruise.

Largest Hindu temple in U.S. opens on ranch
(DALLAS) — A new Hindu temple, the largest of its kind in the United States, opened its doors on a 100-acre ranch in Dallas. The temple, which is a \$10 million project, is a traditional Hindu temple with a large dome and a tall spire. It is the first Hindu temple in the United States to be built on a large tract of land. The temple is a landmark for the Hindu community in the United States.

American Indians rally against casino tax plan
(ARIZONA) — American Indians in Arizona are rallying against a proposed casino tax plan. The plan, which would increase the tax on casino profits, is seen as a threat to the economic development of the state. The American Indian community is concerned that the plan would lead to the closure of many casinos, which are a major source of revenue for the state.

Hong Kong probes gigolo cop porn scandal
(HONG KONG) — Hong Kong police are probing a scandal involving a police officer who was caught in a relationship with a gigolo. The officer, who was a member of the police force, was found to have been involved in a relationship with a man who was a gigolo. The police are investigating the matter to determine if there was any misconduct on the part of the officer.

Former Premier Alec Douglas-Home dies

LONDON (AP) — Lord Home, the aristocratic former British prime minister better known as Sir Alec Douglas-Home, died Monday. He was 92.

Lord Home, whose political career stretched from the rise of the Nazis in Germany through the end of the cold war, was the last of the blue bloods to lead Britain's Conservative Party.

He died surrounded by his family at one of his Scottish estates, Berwickshire, near the English border, his son and heir, David Douglas-Home said. The cause of death was not announced.

Lord Home (pronounced Hume) was prime minister for a year from October 1963, the compromise choice for a troubled party shaken by a sex scandal surrounding a government minister, John Profumo.

"It was an enormous shock. It had never occurred to me that I might be prime minister," Lord Home recalled later.

That air of being detached from the mudslinging and jockeying for power was Lord Home's hallmark through decades in politics — a patrician view of life that came from belonging to a family secure in ancient privileges and vast inherited estates.

As a politician, Lord Home was best known as foreign secretary and as Commonwealth secretary, jobs he held for a total of 13 years between 1955 and 1974. He presided over the end of the empire and shepherded many colonies to independence.

Because the prime minister must sit in the elected House of Commons, Lord Home gave up his string of hereditary Scottish titles, including the 14th Earl of Home, and became prime minister as Sir Alec Douglas-Home.

He was later given a life peerage as Lord Home of Hirlston.

Prime Minister John Major, battling to revive the Conservatives' current flagging fortunes, said, "he was underestimated and often underestimated."

Lord Home, a tall, slim man with a courteous manner, was defeated by Harold Wilson's socialist Labour Party after a year in office.

To Labour in the 1960s, the choice of Lord Home as



Japanese Justice Minister Tomoharu Tazawa (centre) is surrounded by journalists and policemen as he leaves the prime minister's official residence in Tokyo after handing in his resignation (AFP photo)

Japan's justice chief quits amid controversy

TOKYO (R) — Japan's Justice Minister Tomoharu Tazawa resigned Monday over a controversy surrounding an undecided loan.

Observers said his resignation, which was accepted by Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama, should clear the way for the passage of a key bill in parliament designed to tighten government controls over religious institutions.

Mr. Tazawa was replaced by Hiroshi Miyazawa, younger brother of former Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and an upper house lawmaker from the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). He was sworn in Monday.

Mr. Tazawa said he resigned so that controversy over his ties with religious groups would not get in the way of Mr. Murayama's religious organisations bill and a key supplementary budget.

The controversy which prompted Mr. Tazawa's resignation centres around a loan he obtained from a religious group.

"I am stepping down to avoid confusion in parliament, and (because of) the fact that there is a concern that my ties (to religious groups) could hamper the religious organisations bill," Mr. Tazawa said after Mr. Murayama accepted his resignation.

Mr. Murayama's religious groups bill is taking shape as the biggest issue in the current session of parliament which runs through Nov. 13.

Through the bill, Mr. Murayama pledged to tighten lax controls in Japan's law governing religious groups, which he says allowed the Aum doomsday cult, accused of the Tokyo subway nerve gas attacks and other crimes, to escape checks.

Mr. Tazawa also said he could not allow his own affair to delay a huge \$50 billion supplementary budget, part of a package of measures to invigorate the stalled economy.

"I accepted the resignation because he said he wanted to avoid confusion ahead of these important sessions in parliament," Mr. Murayama told reporters.

New Justice Minister Hiroshi Miyazawa told a news conference he would be cautious about invoking an anti-subversion law to outlaw the Aum sect.

This is the most sensitive issue facing the ministry due to fears that the law, never used against a group, would violate constitutional freedoms of press, speech and assembly.

A Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper report triggered the controversy over Mr. Tazawa last Friday. Japan's biggest circulation daily accused Mr. Tazawa of striking a secret deal with opposition politicians to drop questions in parliament about a loan he took from the Buddhist group Rishso Koseikai.

Mr. Tazawa denied forging a secret deal but admitted he failed to report the \$2 million loan, which should have been listed on an assets-disclosure document required of every cabinet minister.

The main opposition Shinshinto (New Frontier Party) also denied the Yomiuri account.

It said it would target Mr. Tazawa's loans and his ties with the Rishso group in parliament this week if he stayed on as justice minister. Mr. Tazawa then came under pressure from his own LDP to step down, LDP officials said.

Shinshinto has vowed to kill Mr. Murayama's religious groups bill, accusing the government of trying to undermine Shinshinto's growing voter support. Shinshinto is partly supported by the Komeito, a Buddhist-backed political group.

Simpson trial revealed U.S. racial chasm — Powell

LONDON (AP) — Retired Gen. Colin Powell said Monday the O. J. Simpson trial revealed a racial chasm in America, but added that the United States gave him opportunities denied to blacks in Britain.

"There is an enormous chasm and sometimes we forget, when we see some progress and some blacks are doing well, ... what we have left behind in our inner cities," Gen. Powell said in a BBC radio interview.

But Gen. Powell, the son of a Jamaican immigrant parents who is considering a Republican or independent bid for the U.S. presidency, said the Simpson verdict was "not a metaphor for all race relations in the United States."

Simpson's acquittal last week on charges of murdering his former wife and her friend divided U.S. opinion largely on racial lines.

Gen. Powell, retired chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is in Britain on a 48-hour visit to promote his book.

He was scheduled to see Prime Minister John Major, and also relatives who emigrated to Britain from Jamaica.

"Look at me, here I am a black American who is being seriously considered as a candidate for president of the United States, even though nobody knows what party I am in," Gen. Powell said.

"Consider, just 32 years ago, just about one generation ago, I couldn't go to a bathroom in a gas station in the American south. So we have made enormous progress."

Sri Lanka rebels kill 8 commandos

COLOMBO (R) — Tamil Tiger guerrillas killed eight police commandos in an ambush in eastern Sri Lanka Monday, a military statement said.

A group of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels attacked a police special task force foot patrol in Pulukunawa, in the Batticaloa district, around 07.00 a.m. (0130 GMT), it said.

The statement said the commandos fought back and inflicted several casualties among the rebels. At least eight commandos were killed but there was no word of rebel casualties, it said.

The LTTE has been fighting for an independent homeland for minority Tamils in the island's north and east since 1983.

Meanwhile the guerrillas reported Monday that Sri Lankan army troops are fortifying positions captured from Tamil Tiger rebels in the northern Jaffna peninsula last week and continuing to shell surrounding areas.

Voice of Tigers radio said the offensive was continuing in Puttur and other areas, a resident who monitored the radio broadcast from Jaffna, the rebel stronghold, told Reuters.

"It said there was no fighting but that troops were fortifying their positions," he said.

Chief military spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe said Thursday more than 300 rebels had been killed in "Operation Thunder Strike", launched on Oct. 1.

Other military sources put the operation's casualty toll among the rebels, who for 12 years have been fighting for a Tamil homeland in the north and east, at more than 500 dead and 1,000 wounded. More than 50,000 people have been killed in the war.

Three army brigades had captured about 25 square kilometres of territory southeast of the main Palaly Air Base as far as Muttur, Brig. Munasinghe said.

The army had lost one officer and 52 regular troops, he said.

Brig. Munasinghe said the army was consolidating its positions in newly captured areas in the Jaffna peninsula.

The LTTE radio reported shelling from Palaly and damage to civilian property by troops fortifying their new positions.

"The radio reported troops had bulldozed houses," said the resident.

Rebel radio also reported a shortage of rice, flour and sugar in Jaffna because of the fighting. The government has denied there is a food shortage.

The rebels also said in a statement that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) had been denied permission by the military to take a team of doctors to Jaffna's main hospital.

"The present lack of medical and support staff at the hospital has caused tremendous hardship to the people and severely hampered the efforts of the ICRC from providing humanitarian aid," it said.

ICRC spokesman Paul Fruh declined to comment, while a military spokesman said he was not aware of the matter.

Military officials say many rebel wounded are treated at the Jaffna Hospital.

President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga said over the weekend the 100,000-strong army needed to double its strength to win the war against the rebels.

The government has spent 16 billion rupees (\$308 million) on the war since the rebels broke a three-month truce and resumed hostilities in April, refusing to consider a peace plan to end the 12-year revolt.

Mrs. Kumaratunga said the government needed to find another 500 billion rupees (\$9.6 billion) to have a chance of defeating the rebels.

N. Korea appoints new minister in defence reshuffle

SEOUL (R) — North Korea has named its army's chief of general staff, Choe Kwang, as its new defence minister in a reshuffle analysts in Seoul said.

The Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), North Korea's official mouthpiece, said Monday the country's uncrowned leader Kim Jong-Il signed the order appointing Marshal Choe Sunday.

Marshal Choe and Ri Ul-Sol, a member of the powerful National Defence Committee, were also promoted to marshals of the Korean People's Army, it said. The only other marshal in North Korea is Kim Jong-Il's eldest son and long-designated heir of the late President Kim Il-Sung.

"The North appears to be paving the way for Kim Jong-Il to be elevated to generalissimo by promoting

two vice-marshals to marshals," said Kim Koo-Seup, chief researcher on North Korea at Seoul's Korea Institute for Defence.

"There was no surprise in the announcement. Old guards and close associates of Kim Jong-Il were confirmed in higher military positions," he said.

The junior Kim, who is supreme commander of North Korea's 1.1-million-strong military, has yet to be formally confirmed in the two key posts his father held — general secretary of the Communist Party and state president.

South Korean officials said Mr. Kim Jong-Il could be promoted to generalissimo, another title his father held, before he takes over other national leadership posts.

Marshal Choe replaces O Jin-U, whose death through cancer in February widened a hole in North Korea's leadership that emerged

Taiwan: An Asia-Pacific Operations Centre

To further internationalise its economy and expand its global markets, the Republic of China on Taiwan intends to play a key role in the economic integration of the Asia-Pacific region in the 21st century.

To prepare itself for this role, the ROC has begun work on a plan to transform Taiwan into an operation centre for the Asia-Pacific region within the next decade.

As an Asia-Pacific Operations Centre, Taiwan will serve as a stepping stone for local and multinational businesses that want to invest in and develop Asia-Pacific markets, including Southeast Asia and mainland China.

Centrally located in East Asia, Taiwan is well-situated to become a regional operations centre. Taiwan has a solid manufacturing base, an abundant supply of highly skilled manpower, vigorous domestic markets, experts, a strong industrial base and cultural background.

The plan to develop Taiwan into a regional operations centre is divided into two parties, a macroeconomics adjustment programme and a specialised operations centre development plan. The macroeconomics adjustment plan is designed to improve Taiwan's overall economic infrastructure by allowing the four "I" (investment, industry, individual and information) to follow freely in and out of Taiwan. The specialised



operation centre development plan involves making Taiwan a centre for six economic activities in the Asia-Pacific: manufacturing, sea transportation, air transportation, financial services, telecommunications and media production.

Manufacturing
 Taiwan boasts a strong manufacturing base and a highly skilled work force. Companies will be encouraged to choose Taiwan as their base for manufacturing high-value-added products and for marketing these products in the Asia-Pacific region. The plan to develop Taiwan as a manufacturing centre will be by: relaxing restrictions on foreign investment setting up twenty to thirty "intelligent" industrial parks in which companies will enjoy incentives, assistance provided by the roc government; establishing digital

communicational links between industrial parks and traditional parks.

Sea transportation
 Taiwan is also qualified to serve as a sea cargo transshipment hub for the Asia-Pacific region. kaohsiung harbour in southern Taiwan has been designated as an "offshore transshipping port" for trade with the Chinese mainland.

Air transportation
 To establish itself as an air transportation center Taiwan will first develop an express cargo transit center and then create an aviation city centring around the cks international airport and its adjacent areas.

Financial services
 the establishment of a financial services will allow financial institutions in Taiwan, both domestic and foreign, to provide east

Asian nations with cross-border financial services. "full freedom offshore and gradual liberalisation domestically" will be the initial policy.

Telecommunications
 Taiwan is an attractive location for regional telecommunications services: the plan to accentuate Taiwan's strengths in this regard includes: providing high-quality services at reasonable prices; developing a switching hub and a customer service center; enforcing planning and implementation of a national information infra-structure.

Media
 The mandarin media market in taiwan, hong kong, and the chinese mainland will be worth \$14 billion by the year 2000. The media center in taiwan, which will be aimed at this huge market, will focus on high-tech movie production and post-production.

Opinion & Analysis

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Unilateralism that backfires

ISRAEL IS now demanding from us, through the deputy mayor of Jerusalem at least, to amend Jordan's National Charter by deleting references to Zionism in it as a racist and imperialist movement. Israel has made similar demands from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to change its charter especially where it purports to stake a claim for the entire land of Palestine. The Jewish state has in fact succeeded already in rescinding all U.N. resolutions that had equated Zionism with racism and is now busy embarking on a campaign to cancel all U.N. decisions that declare its annexation of East Jerusalem null and void.

We do understand that the peace treaty between us and Israel calls for changes in legislation, practices and even policies of the two countries. What we do not and cannot fathom, however, is Israel's repeated calls on the Arab parties to make unilateral amendments without parallel changes on its part.

Take, for example, the charter of the Zionist Movement which still makes a claim to Eretz (Greater) Israel comprising not only the West Bank (still referred to as Judea and Samaria) but also parts of the Arab World extending to Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and even Egypt.

Appropriate and necessary changes need to be mutual and not one-sided, as Israel is so demanding. Would Israeli major parties, including the Labour and Likud blocs, accept to convene a national conference to introduce the necessary amendments to the Zionist Movement's platform so that the Arab side can be reassured on Israel's long-term objectives in the Middle East? Is it not high time that Israel denounced its biblical claims to many parts of the Arab World in return for the peace treaties that the Arab countries have entered or are willing to sign with it? As for the Rabin government's campaign during the current session of the U.N. General Assembly in New York, which is aiming to reverse all international resolutions on Jerusalem, should we not at least wait until the fate of the Holy City is satisfactorily negotiated between Israel and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) before we tear down international legitimacy?

Peace in the region requires all parties to come clean on any new initiative to achieve it. Israel will not be entitled to make new demands on Jordan or the Palestinians, not to mention the Arab World and the international community, unless and until it cleans its own house first.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A writer in Al Rai daily Monday said that an article published in Al-Hayat newspaper against Jordanian journalists and government officials, accusing them of being in the pay of Iraq, aimed at destabilising Jordan and distorting its image before the world. Tareq Masarweh said that the media is suing the London-based Saudi newspaper so that the court reveals the truth about the paper's allegations and accusations. The Al-Hayat article said that Jordanian officials, ministers and journalists were receiving sums of money from the Iraqi authorities as a bribe to influence the government's stand, to which Mr. Masarweh responded that such an attitude is considered part of a hostile campaign against the Kingdom rather than the journalists of the country, because the report aimed at marring Jordan's relations with the other Arab countries and distorting its image on the domestic front. The writer said that it was clear that the report, which also alleged the Kingdom was rife with corruption, had tried to harm the country's security and damage its democracy.

Mohammad Kawash a writer in Al Dustour criticised the terrorist campaigns launched by Algerians in France, saying the blasts at metro stations and other public places were bound to backfire and cause harm to the Algerian community living in France. The writer said we should admit that the French government is a friend of the Arabs and supports the Arab nation's just causes, while he added that the French people maintain strong ties with Arabs, especially Algerians and other North African Arabs. The spate of bombings in France, he said, cannot serve the Algerian people, but will only win enemies against Arab causes through these acts of violence and the fall of innocent French citizens. The blasts, he added, will not solve the internal conflict in Algeria either. By extending their terrorist campaign to France, Algerian groups are committing dangerous acts that will harm the Algerian nation and will only invite counter French measures.

The View from the Fourth Circle

The press, the law, the state, and a plate of knafeh

By Rami G. Khouri

THE BRIEF detention in jail last week of Jordanian journalist Salameh Ne'matt raises several important questions about the conduct of our press and journalists; it raises more important issues related to the functioning of the law in Jordan. All of us in Jordan who dearly love our country and want it to be a model for this region and the rest of the developing world should take this opportunity to explore further the full dimensions of this issue — and the quality of our statehood.

I am intrigued to find out the truth about the specific issue that Mr. Ne'matt wrote about — alleged Iraqi payments to journalists and officials in Jordan in an effort to undermine Jordanian official policy towards Iraq. As this issue is now before the court, I must respect the legal constraint that forbids journalistic comment on pending judicial cases. I trust the Jordanian legal system sufficiently to await the court's findings on this matter, especially in view of the more activist and patently fair conduct of Jordanian courts in several recent cases involving the press and some state security matters.

The fact that Mr. Ne'matt was detained for two days raises specific legal questions that the lawyers and the courts will sort out in due time. I am not a lawyer, but my consultations with lawyers and specialists in this field suggest to me the following relevant questions about this matter: Was it necessary to detain Mr. Ne'matt for two days, and to have Jordan's good name smeared around the world? Or, could the force and intent of Jordanian law have been served equally well by charging Mr. Ne'matt with slandering the journalistic profession or endangering national security, and then releasing him on bail without spending two nights in prison? If the state in fact deemed Mr. Ne'matt's conduct dangerous to national security or libellous to the good name of the Jordanian media, then why was he ever released on bail? (Either he is a menace and a threat and should remain in jail, or he is merely irksome and not so dangerous to the well-being of our 4.2 million Jordanians that he cannot be allowed to roam the streets). If the intent of the Press and Publications Law is to have journalists reveal their sources to a court of law regarding stories thought to touch on national security or criminal issues — as the law states — and Mr. Ne'matt clearly stated his willingness to reveal his sources if a court of law asked him to do so, then why was he jailed for two days?

I and many others look forward to learning the answers. The decisions and actions of the prosecutor-general in this case should prompt us to discuss the wider actions of government officials in applying the law in a broad range of fields that affect the daily lives of millions of ordinary Jordanians. Those of us who raise these issues do not do so because we are critical of Jordan, but because we deeply value Jordan and what it represents in modern historical terms: a daring and impressive determination in the developing world to build an ethos of statehood based on respect for the dignity and rights of human beings, and on the humane and egalitarian conduct of the state. We are getting there fast, but we are not completely there yet.

One of our great challenges is to complete the modern transition that this century has imposed on us: the transition from a traditional collective of separate tribal and ethnic communities (that derive their identity, protection and well-being from their tribal and communal base), to a modern state in which the individual and the family are protected by the force of laws that are equally and fairly applied to all Jordanian nationals, regardless of their wealth, social standing, or political inclination.

As any Jordanian national will attest — in court, in the press or in our hearts — one of our weaknesses as a country is the uneven or inconsistent application of laws, rules and regulations by government agencies and officials. For example, in my own personal life in the last several months, I have encountered the following cases:

— A tax department official decided arbitrarily that the expenses of our private company had to be reduced by 'X' thousand dinars, without providing any consistent or formal rationale for how this sum was contrived. Dialogue got us nowhere, so we ended up appealing the decision in the tax court system.

— A traffic policeman issued us a parking ticket for allegedly parking in a no-parking zone in Shmeisani. We checked carefully and there was no sign indicating that this is a no-parking zone, and cars are always parked there. The policeman was no longer there when we saw the ticket, and therefore we had no choice but to pay the modest fine, or else go through a time-consuming legal process.

— A customs agent at the airport arbitrarily decided that I should pay 'X' hundred dinars import duty on a computer printer that I brought into the country and declared to the agent. He decided on his own the retail price of the printer, which was much higher than its actual price, and thus I ended up paying more duty than I should have. The alternative was to go through a time-consuming appeals process that simply was not worth it. I paid, and have been printing happily ever since.

— An official at the customs department in Amman wrote the wrong value of a shipment of goods we imported, which then required a long and complex appeal process to correct the amount written in the documents so that we would not be unfairly over-charged on our end-of-year income tax calculations.

These are only a few examples of incidents that I personally experienced in recent months. Do they reflect mere inefficiency? Bad luck? Corruption? Boredom? Poor training? Resistance to modernisation? Lack of institutionalisation? The cultural consequence of temperate ecology? Something less, or more, sinister? I do not really know. None of these incidents on their own is particularly earth-shaking or destructive, but all of them may reflect a larger pattern of application of the law that leaves too much room for personal interpretation or whim.

Of course, one could argue credibly, this is our charm, this is what makes Jordan such a pleasant place. If you know the right person, or you have a cousin or neighbour strategically located in a government agency where you need to process some routine bureaucratic paperwork, the personal touch works wonders. The flexibility of personal interpretation of laws and regulations can be a wonderful thing if the interpretations work in your favour; the same process can be very frustrating and damaging, even costly, if decisions go against you. Perhaps the most common phenomenon in this respect is the corporate tax collector's

annual assessment, which changes according to the individual tax official who happens to audit your company books that year.

When these phenomena occur in the realm of law application, in cases that involve charges of endangering state security or something near that magnitude, the consequences are altogether more serious. Therefore, I suggest, it is very important for Jordan to identify those areas in our laws and legal system that still permit a wide latitude for personal interpretation by government officials, so that the rights and obligations of all Jordanians are clearly spelled out, understood and applied.

If some points arise that do need interpretation, which is bound to happen, then the burden of interpretation should be placed on the shoulders of courts and judges, not on the shoulders of individual government officials of the executive branch. The whole point about our democracy, pluralism and respect for human rights is that they formally and unambiguously separate the functions of those who make the laws (the legislature) from those who implement them (the executive) from those who interpret them (the judiciary). We still have too many instances in Jordan where the three functions of governance can blur into the single phenomenon, personality, temperament and inclination of a government official. The law often officially sanctions this; many laws, after specifying in great detail the rights and obligations of Jordanians and the duties and powers of government officials, often end with a clause such as "or anything else that is so determined by the minister."

One of the Kingdom's strengths today, is that such deliberate ambiguity is being slowly contained and defined by the courts. We have seen this in recent press cases, where courts overturned decisions by Ministry of Information officials to suspend two opposition newspapers.

While it is true that channels exist for appealing the unilateral administrative decisions of government officials, the parallel fact is that the time and cost of appealing are often too high to warrant exercising the right of appeal. It is simply not worth the time to spend half a day appealing against a JD 5 parking ticket that was wrongly issued. So we pay the JD 5, enjoy a plate of fresh knafeh, and get on with life's little blessings and agonies. But we actually pay a lot more than JD 5. We pay the much larger cost of the predicament that bedevils most of the Third World: some lingering pockets of imprecision in the separation of powers in governance systems that boast about or still aspire to an ethos of democracy, participation and accountability.

I raise these issues because I believe that Jordan has too much decency, honour and goodwill to acquiesce much longer in those lingering pockets of imprecision within the business of political governance and the structures of statehood. Some people may think it is dangerous and seditious to raise these issues. I think it is dangerous to ignore them, and an act of deeply affectionate patriotism to raise them. We make our country the best it can be by whittling away at its few imperfections, not by ignoring them.

Clinton's new Cuba initiative: Don't bet on Castro's

By George Gedda
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Increasing contact between ordinary Cubans and Americans is the newest wrinkle in U.S. policy toward Cuba. But President Fidel Castro has already said he sees the idea as just another gambit to undermine his revolution.

And if Castro refuses to cooperate, he won't get any complaints from Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, who considers the initiative evidence of administration weakness toward Cuba.

President Clinton announced Friday he is easing restrictions on travel to Cuba so that American educators, clerics, environmentalists and human rights groups can work with independent counterparts in

Cuba, which have been growing in number recently.

The goal, Clinton said, is to "promote democracy and the free flow of ideas." But to accomplish it, Clinton will need the cooperation of the Cuban government, and Castro made clear two months ago he was not interested.

He said the concept was authored by "those who want to infiltrate us, weaken us, to create all types of counter-revolutionary organisations, and to destabilise the country regardless of the consequences."

He said Cuba would welcome an American expert in computers or another technological area "that has nothing to do with ideology."

Castro may have in mind the experience of Poland, where a mushrooming of contacts between non-official Poles and

Americans is widely believed to have heightened opposition to the regime. In 1989, Poland became the first communist country to turn to democracy as a result of rebellion from within.

The head of the U.S. diplomatic mission in Cuba, Joseph Sullivan, apprised Cuban officials of the new policy Friday morning shortly after Clinton disclosed it in a speech.

Cuban foreign ministry spokesman Miguel Alfonso, in a telephone interview with the Associated Press in Mexico City, called Clinton's announcement meaningless because it has no impact on the U.S. embargo against Cuba.

"We don't give it any importance whatsoever," he said. Ricardo Alarcon, president of the Cuban parliament, said the United States "is continuing with the same policy..."

"They have made a big noise over something that is absolutely nothing," Alarcon said at a news conference in Havana.

Jose Hernandez, president of the Cuban-American National Foundation, an anti-communist group, said Friday in Miami he doubts Castro will go along with Clinton's proposal.

"The American people will only be able to communicate with the Cuban people if Castro allows it — and that's a big if," Hernandez said.

The foundation's representative in Washington, Jose Cardenas, said he has no objection to increased contacts so long as leftist groups masquerading as apolitical organisations are not permitted to roam Cuba at will, serving as defenders of the regime.

He said the new policy will

have "maximum effect" only if it is implemented "in concert with an intensification of economic pressure on Castro."

Dole, came out in strong opposition to Clinton's initiative and agreed with Cardenas that a tighter embargo is the answer.

A co-author of pending legislation to accomplish that, Republican Dan Burton, said the initiative suggests Clinton is eager to have normal relations with Castro. "I am very distressed," said Burton, chairman of the House International Relations Subcommittee on Latin America.

Dole, a presidential candidate, suggested that the easing of travel restrictions is the work of the "many advisers who favour normalising relations with Cuba." He said Friday's announcement may very well be the end of the travel

embargo. Another Republican presidential candidate, Senator Phil Gramm, accused Clinton of "putting out the welcome mat to Castro instead of tightening the noose around his aging neck."

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns acknowledged that the new policy could lead to additional dollar income for Cuba but, he said, there won't be any "windfalls."

Clinton, he added, wants "to enhance the ties between the people of the United States and the people of Cuba, and we hope in the long-term they'll be part of our effort to provide more leverage on the Cuban government to change."

"Cuba is the only non-democratic government in this hemisphere. Cuba is clearly behind the times."

LETTERS

Unsafe hospitals

To the Editor:

MODERN AND sophisticated hospitals in our capital grow with quite a remarkable speed. Just like mushrooms do after a rainy day. Hospital extension projects are also underway, and God knows how many projected medical institutions are to be licensed yet. Naturally, we do believe that the motif behind this significant growth is to primarily meet the medical needs of a continuously expanding community, and provide the most efficient and professional medical care for its citizens.

Many of us have visited (for one reason or another) one of those prestigious medical centres, and we must admit, what we see is impressive in terms of architectural design, finishing and interior decoration. On the other hand, Jordan is known in the region for its reputable medical experts in many fields, whose achievements in the medical profession have received international recognition. Well, that's the good news. The bad news, however, is that some basic medical and ethical requirements in our hospitals seem to be totally forgotten or simply neglected.

I had been quite reluctant to believe all the absurd stories of medical negligence, till a most recent incident that happened to a close friend (of mine and my husband's) made me start to think that there is some truth to what is being told.

Our friend, a young man in his early thirties, had to undergo a minor surgery at one of the private hospitals of his choice. All went well till the night after the surgery, when he was administered an intravenous shot of a certain

antibiotics by a nurse on duty. She did her job hurriedly without further attending the patient. The injected medication had a dramatic and speedy side-effect on the patient, whose respiratory system collapsed and in no time our friend was absolutely helpless, and believe it or not, suffocating and choking to death. If it wasn't for his brother who was there at the time of the incident, and screamed for help all around the place, I would have been probably writing an obituary right now. The nurses who were rushed to the scene were scared, confused and obviously inexperienced, for it took a long time to resuscitate the patient. As they say, all is well that ends well; yet to make things worse, on the following day, the patient continued receiving medication which had been suspended by the home physician verbally and in writing on the patient's chart. And to cut the story short, after a lengthy dispute, between the home doctor, the resident doctor and staff nurse, and a written report as a result, the totally frightened patient decided to leave the hospital and rest at home in a relaxing and at least safe atmosphere. If I am not mistaken, hospitals are obligated to provide a suitable climate for its patients, especially, when one pays a high price against what he expects to receive as services in return.

Apparently, it takes more than excellent physicians and attractive facilities to make a hospital be a truly comfortable place for medical treatment. I wish and hope many will support my view, that those who are instrumental in running our hospitals do their job with more dedication and sincere commitment, as well as pay greater attention to matters of real substance, rather than give false images. It is the well-being of any patient, regardless of his social status, that must preoccupy their minds and deeds, instead

of prospects for commercial benefits. I would also like to add that nursing is among the noblest of professions with lots of challenges and responsibilities involved but it must always be remembered that it is meant only for those who really love to do it.

Mrs. Rumiana Nuseibeh,
P.O. Box 926487,
Amman

A MENA logo!

To the Editor:

THE ONGOING preparations for the upcoming Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit (MENA) are probably by now nearing completion.

For the first time in years, this country has the chance to project itself as an attractive investor-friendly environment and an appropriate economic focal point of the region.

One thing that seems to be lacking so far, however, is a conference logotype (logo), which would symbolise the conference's significance and become its "trademark."

I would urge the organisers to introduce such a logo as soon as possible so that it is included in all the conference literature and indeed the press articles related thereto.

Mouncef R. Zou'bi,
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Features

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1995 7

The front line: Defending human rights

HUMAN RIGHTS defenders are the women and men on the front lines of the struggle to realise the ideal proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that all people should be free from "fear and want." Wherever there is persecution and oppression, when human rights are denied or human dignity threatened, when harassed minorities or oppressed peoples are at risk, defenders strive to protect the weak and hold the powerful to account.

Those who stand up for human rights often pay a high price for their courage. Human rights defenders are assassinated for protesting against state violence. They are jailed for demanding prisoners' rights. They "disappear" because they investigate abductions and political killings. They are harassed and have their work curtailed through ostensibly legal channels. When their writing is banned or censored, when official restrictions prevent them from getting resources to support their work and deny them the right to organise, or prevent them from representing victims. Defenders get death threats, their telephones are tapped, their houses are watched, their families are intimidated. The greatest threat comes from governments that have the most to hide;

when a government cannot tolerate any form of dissent, those who speak out on human rights may be signing their own death warrant or detention order.

Yet the struggle for human rights involves people in every region and virtually every country in the world. It espouses universal principles, embodied in international human rights instruments. The human rights community is a combination of human rights NGOs and other individuals or associations, including trade unions, popular and religious organisations.

Human rights defenders can be lawyers, journalists, peasant leaders, trade unionists, students, relatives of victims and many others who denounce and investigate violations; support and protect the victims; fight to end impunity; promote human rights education; and mobilise their communities in campaigns to stop the violations. The work of Amnesty International (AI) and other international human rights organisations would grind to a halt without the support, cooperation and information they provide.

Even governments that

appear to have sophisticated mechanisms for human rights protection have not eliminated human rights violations. Defenders in these societies often work with the dispossessed, minorities, and other vulnerable sectors. And by investigating and denouncing violations, defenders keep the state accountable for its actions and help to curb the authoritarian tendencies that can emerge in any government, no matter how open or democratic it appears to be.

In countries suffering the consequences of violent conflict or dictatorship, defenders have a decisive role. When trade unions and political parties have been banned, when parliaments have been dissolved and the free press closed, when dissidents have been murdered, jailed or forced into exile, human rights defenders are often the only force standing between the mass of ordinary people and the unbridled power of the state. No one else would take up the cases of peasants evicted from their land. No one else would try to find out what had happened to the men and women who have "disappeared." Local

The U.N. Draft Declaration should guarantee the right to defend human rights. As an absolute minimum this should include:

- * the right to defend the rights of other people;
- * the right to form human rights organisations;
- * the right to advocate human rights ideas freely and openly;
- * the right to choose to defend any or all human rights;
- * the right to obtain and utilise the necessary resources;
- * the right to communicate with national and international NGOs, and to have unrestricted access to relevant intergovernmental organisations;
- * the right to participate in peaceful actions promoting the observance of human rights;
- * the right to use the law, and be protected by it, in the defence of human rights.

activists are sometimes the only source of data about what is really happening in a particular country; they alert international NGOs and the media and denounce human rights violations to the relevant bodies of the United Nations (U.N.).

The role of human rights defenders is likewise key in countries undergoing major reform or transition. They are among the first to take advantage of small democratic openings, and they help create the space in which the right to peaceful dissent and freedom of expression can be exercised and protected. Because they are mobilised for causes

that transcend party political borders, defenders contribute to creating the civil consensus that frequently follows a period of extreme repression. Defenders try to ensure that those responsible for past human rights violations are held to account, but they also constitute a guarantee that justice is not turned into vengeance against the old oppressors. In addition, they try to ensure that new-found freedoms flourish, by continuing to investigate and denounce any new violations of human rights.

The U.N. draft declaration on human rights defenders

have often been left to stand alone, surviving through sheer grit and courage. Governments have singularly failed to protect them. For more than 10 years state representatives at the U.N. Commission on Human Rights have been unable to reach agreement on the text of a basic declaration aimed at recognising and strengthening the right to defend human rights.

The debate over the declaration has been characterised by the constant tension between those who are trying to protect defenders, and reinforce the rights necessary for human rights work, and governments that would like to impose a set of limitations and obligations that would make the work practically meaningless.

Most of the rights that make the defence of human rights possible are already guaranteed to all people: The right to freedom of expression, for example, or to freedom of association and peaceful assembly. But given that governments can be inventive in finding ways to restrict the exercise of human rights, and given that existing international instruments contain suffi-

cient restrictions already, the purpose of this declaration should be to fortify defenders' rights in the face of real and sometimes violent suppression by governments and their agents. Governments, on the other hand, do not need any additional protection from those who are peacefully exercising their fundamental rights and freedoms.

The Working Group responsible for the draft operates by consensus, and progress has been blocked by a few states that have taken advantage of the consensus rule to push for amendments aimed at emphasising the duties and responsibilities of human rights defenders, rather than their rights and freedoms. The introduction of restrictive proposals, especially from Cuba, China, Syria and Mexico, has accelerated during the last two sessions.

Other states, including the USA, United Kingdom and Greece, have made valuable proposals on many issues but have objected to clauses that would allow third parties to take court actions to protect the human rights of others. This could leave those most in need, like the "disappeared," without pro-

tection.

A small group of governments would like to subordinate the activities of defenders to national law, which often falls short of the rights and protections offered by international human rights standards. There have also been attempts to limit outside financial and material support. And although the primary role of human rights defenders is to act on behalf of others, Cuba, supported by China, has proposed a wording that could restrict defenders to defending only their own rights. This could mean, for instance, that a human rights activist might have the right to make a public declaration if he or she has been tortured, but would not have the right to protest against the torture of any other person.

The protection of those who defend and promote human rights is a matter of high priority for AI. Together with other international NGOs we must protect defenders and legitimise human rights activism in countries where it remains virtually impossible today. As a first step, AI is urging the world's governments to agree a strong text for this declaration and to adopt it as a matter of urgency.

Amnesty International

Bosnia's kids take the risk of thinking peace

By Patrick Quinn
The Associated Press

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — No more bombs. No more killing. Instead, the security of a father home from the war, toys and long-forgotten days at the beach.

Amid signs that Bosnia's adults may be ready to stop killing each other, its kids — whether in besieged Sarajevo or down the road in Serb-held Pale — are already dreaming about peace. A new ceasefire is to begin Tuesday.

But their hope is tempered by the knowledge of what's already lost — and of their parents' version of who is to blame.

"I hope this thing, this war finishes," muttered 9-year-old Senad Kaliman, playing with friends around the ruins of a house near Sarajevo's main hospital.

The pillar of living inside, often in basements, was evident on his small face and the faces of his playmates, all clad in hand-me-down sweaters and patched, baggy trousers.

But at least they survived. In government-held Sarajevo alone, 1,601 children have been killed, 14,944 wounded and another 40,018 displaced since the Serb siege began in April 1992. Thousands more have died elsewhere throughout Bosnia.

The leader of Senad's band of five friends is scruffy, 12-year-old Kosta Bogojevic, an ethnic Serb kid with blond hair and an easy smile.

He said his parents didn't trust previous ceasefires and kept him close to home. But with most Serb heavy weapons pulled back from around Sarajevo, he and his friends were among many Sarajevans out on a bright Saturday.

In Pale, the Bosnian Serb stronghold just 12 miles east of where the boys stood, another Serb, 7-year-old Tanja Krstanovic, was also playing with her friends.

She once lived in Sarajevo, but she doesn't think she'll be going back. Reflecting the propaganda that has driven the war, she said her hometown is "full of Turks."

Turks are what Serb nationalists call Bosnia's Muslims because of the 400 years of Ottoman Turkish rule which ended in

the 19th century. In the Balkans, hatreds tend to be passed on from generation to generation.

Tanja has also learned to be cautious about the prospects for peace.

"To me, peace is when my dad stays at home and doesn't go to the front line," she said. "Dad told me peace will come in a couple of days, but..." She didn't finish the sentence. She just shrugged sceptically.

In Banja Luka, the Bosnian Serbs' biggest town, 11-year-old Irena Stajic and her best friend, 10-year-old Andjelija Jankovic, said they missed their home and their fathers.

Both Serb girls fled Drvar in western Bosnia-Herzegovina when it was captured during a government-Croat offensive. Irena's father was killed when a shell hit their home. Andjelija's father is usually at the front line.

Nenad Samardzija, an 8-year-old from Banja Luka, said he, too, misses his father and brothers, who are on the front line. "I'm afraid for them, and I pray to God every night to hide them from the bullets," he said.

In his own way, 17-year-old Nenad Hrnjica, in Sarajevo also wants to hide from the bullets. At first he blustered that the Muslim-led government should not have accepted the ceasefire, a common opinion among adults.

But there was a lapse in the bravado, and suddenly he was just a scared teenager. He admitted he would rather leave Sarajevo than fight. "I'd rather run than join the army," he said.

A few yards away, Senad, Kosta and friends were heading to the market on what would have been until recently an unheard-of excursion: A check of toy prices. High on their wish list were new "batman forever" dolls.

At about \$5 each, they were too expensive. Senad fingered his most prized possession, an old "masters of the universe" figure.

Two of the boys, Mahir Poturkovic and Haris Busic, both 10, had other things on their mind. The beach.

"Yes, the beach. I remember that," piped in Bogojevic. "I want to go to the seaside and swim, swim a lot."

Virtual reality of TV justice

The media, the U.S. legal system take equal blame for the spectacle of the O. J. Simpson trial

By Bryan Appleyard

THE OJ Simpson trial was perhaps the most sensational globalised legal process in history. Television carried the whole of the nine-month-long procedure around the world, making Judge Lance Ito, defender Johnnie Cochran, prosecutor Marcia Clark and Simpson himself as familiar as any Baywatch babe or soap stud. Wherever you travelled those faces could be seen on TV or in newspapers, always frozen in the narrow confines of that courtroom and always betraying the fallen, corrupt consciousness that this show was turning them into stars.

Simpson himself was, of course, a star already — an American football hero and movie actor. And that was the point. Here was a man whose place in the American consciousness was so well defined that his trial had to be a show trial. Here was a hero who might be a killer. The American public had a right to know the truth, for to them, fame is a matter of legitimate public interest. Fame is valid, fame is important, fame enhances the right to know.

So the trial became, literally, a show trial. Simpson had \$3.6m to spend on his defence and the state of California had \$35m to spend on his prosecution — for that kind of money you could make a big movie. And so, of course, they did.

Johnnie Cochran's closing speech could have been modelled on Spencer Tracy's performance in *Inherit the Wind* or Paul Newman's in *The Verdict*. At every point in the trial you could feel the pressure of old movies or TV shows, pushing the performers to pay it for the cameras, to play it the way the jury and the television audience expected it to be.

And this, surely, is the first big lesson of the trial: Courtrooms should never, under any circumstances, be televised. The arguments for televised trials seem strong. If justice should be seen to be done, and if we already

have public galleries, then there seems no logical reason to exclude cameras. On the face of it they already have the effect of increasing the number of seats in the gallery. They are a neutral technology that simply assists the dissemination of the edifying and salutary spectacle of justice at work.

But the Simpson trial demonstrates conclusively that cameras are not neutral. By extending the audience from tens to millions, the camera introduces a new reality that is not merely quantitative. That reality is mass entertainment. The audience is not locked in a courtroom with nothing to watch but the trial. It is at home with a remote control, watching the trial as a show, as one viewing opportunity among many. It even, thanks to the too-familiar courtroom geometry, looks like other shows — Perry Mason, *The Defenders*, whatever. The TV manners of the U.S. courtroom are as generically ritualised as those of the sit-com. And once televised trials are like this, then all trials have to be, because that is what juries expect.

Television transposes the court from a physical to a virtual realm. Its reality and significance are relativised. It must compete, it must pay the mass game. This game requires shorthand, instant recognisability. So it forces conventions on the participants.

In Los Angeles a media-comprehensible reality was imposed upon the world to make it palatable to an audience educated not to believe the evidence of their own minds — that truth is difficult, reality ambiguous and people, even famous people, are unfathomable. Once you abandon this awareness for the cheap imperatives of a TV show, then justice, an absolute at least in theory, becomes self-evidently impossible.



You could see the corrupting need for these mendacious conventions in Cochran's approach to the defence. He wanted to convince the jury that this trial belonged to a particular cinematic genre, the genre of liberal defence attorney fighting a corrupt, racist system riddled with evil plots. Get the jury to recognise the movie type and they would have no choice — in this genre the defendant, guilty or not, is always innocent.

So everybody in the courtroom was trapped in a bizarre, cultural loop. Movies and television shows are made about trials. Directors touch them up in all the right places — enlarge characters, heighten drama. People watch the movies. That, they decide, is what justice must be like. Then they go on juries. Lawyers cannot afford to disappoint them so they start acting like Tracy or Newman. Live television comes along with all its attendant claims to "realism." The lawyers bam it up even more. Even the not-quite verdict was delivered with a suitably filmic, agonising pause. Amazingly we discover that "real" justice

is just like the movies because, by now, it is.

The horror of all this is that somewhere at the start of this particular movie there were real bodies with real blood and, even though he's famous, Simpson was always a real man facing the possibility of a real sentence. Yet who, deluged with this TV overkill, could really keep that in mind? Television banished real human suffering by lulling us into thinking this really was a movie.

But it was not just the fault of television. It was the whole American legal system that allowed this to happen, allowed money and fame to corrupt its proceedings. There are about 25,000 murders in the United States every year. Say they all came to trial and got the full OJ treatment — TV, super-expensive lawyers, months of evidence and so on. That means each one would cost around \$40m — and within months the U.S. economy would have ground to a halt.

But it doesn't happen, it can't happen, because the big lawyers don't care about those little crimes. It is only when the defendant is rich and/or famous that the lawyers spot the chance of

major fees. TV appearances, books and so on. It's bad enough to know that the Simpson trial was an event created by the movies and the media, even worse to know that it was all done in collusion with lawyers. Once again the flagrant racket that is the American legal system is exposed. So much for Jefferson, so much for Lincoln, so much for the Enlightenment.

Amid all this, the best, the most poignant joke of all was the jury — kept off the TV screens to protect their anonymity and "sequestered" in hotel rooms to prevent contamination by the media coverage. There they were, the quarantined distillation of the Republic's common sense, wondering what it all meant and who, if anybody, they were supposed to be.

It couldn't work, of course. Only jurors who had never seen a television screen could be sufficiently pure to judge Simpson. Only a few saints, mystics and lunatics would have qualified. They, in a world of TV justice and U.S. lawyers, would be the only ones who knew anything for certain.

The Independent

King, Queen return home

(Continued from page 1)

while in the U.S., the King said there was a "promise and commitment to support the development of our Armed Forces."

The King and Queen were received upon arrival by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, and their Royal Highnesses

Princess Sarvath, Princess Basma and other Royal family members as well as senior Jordanian officials.

Returning with the King and Queen were Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and the delegation who accompanied the King and Queen on their visits.

Algeria

(Continued from page 12)

use them of not respecting

Islamic law.

On Sunday Algeria's security services said they had "wiped out" a group of 23 armed Islamic fundamentalists on the western region of

Sidi Bel Abbes. The armed men, who were killed Saturday, belonged to a group headed by Moham-

mad Rashid Akal and had been behind several assassinations and acts of sabotage in the Sidi Bel Abbes region and Tlemcen in the far west, the services said.

It was one of the heaviest death tolls in a single operation announced in recent months.

The latest deaths announced bring the number of Islamic fundamentalists killed in the past week to 68, according to official figures.

2 Americans

(Continued from page 12)

ceremony in Stockholm, with the other laureates this year.

Ms. Nusslein-Volhard, director of developmental biology at the institute, was the first German woman to win a Nobel Science Prize.

The winners were announced this year amid an uproar over lobbying for a Nobel prize. A leading Swedish newspaper reported last month that the 1986 prize had been "bought" by an Italian drug firm.

Nobel officials, prize-watchers and the laureate herself have dismissed the report as completely wrong.

But it ignited a debate about influence on Nobel judges, who claim to be independent arbiters of scientific merit. And it may bring more scrutiny of the laureates this year.

astro's

ubated

Another 8-year-old girl

national candidate. Senior

family, accused of a blunder

of cutting out the wrong one

of a Castro minister of high

rank, was accused of being

incompetent.

Deparment

Minister, Nicholas Burns

acknowledged that the

they could have addressed

the situation in Cuba but

did not want to be

ambassadors.

Clinton has not wanted to

change the ties between the

people of the United States

and people of Cuba, and we

are in the long term their

part of our effort to provide

more democracy on the

continent. Cuba is clearly

its. I would also like to

dest of professions with

ties involved but it must

seem only for those who

World Bank seeks privatisation if conditions right

WASHINGTON (R) — The World Bank Sunday urged developing countries to transfer state-owned companies to private hands, but said privatisation could only work if the conditions were right.

Bank officials, introducing a policy report called "Bureaucrats in Business," said big state-owned companies around the world were throwing up barriers to growth.

"Large state enterprise sectors are hindering economic growth," chief economist Michael Bruno told a news briefing. "They worsen government fiscal deficits, crowd out private investment and consume scarce funds that could be better spent on health and education. All of these hurt the economy and make it harder for people to escape poverty."

But the report made clear that providing loans or technical assistance for privatisation was pointless unless countries presented credible policies and unless their leaders had the political will to sell off state firms.

"Few countries have the three conditions necessary for success: First that their leaders perceive reform as politically desirable, second that reform is politically feasible and third that reform is credible," it said.

The report, a glossy 346-page document, is the fourth in a series of research papers looking at key policy issues facing the World Bank's 178 member countries.

It looks at the state sector in a selection of developed and developing countries, but concludes that words in selling off the state sector have been louder than deeds.

Much has been said about privatisation, but in most countries little has been done.

"The so-called decade of divestiture has produced more hot air than hot prospects," said Mary Shirley, leader of the research team.

"State enterprise reform has moved slowly because it is politically costly — privatising state enterprises or otherwise improving their efficiency often means cutting jobs and eliminating long-established subsidies," she added.

The report said that the countries in the study privatised on average three state-owned firms a year, although each had hundreds of firms which could be suitable for transfer.

Rich nations try to head off currency, other crises

WASHINGTON (R) — Economic policymakers from rich nations Sunday sought to defuse a looming currency crisis in Europe while backing longer-term measures to fight world financial emergencies in the future.

Speaking to reporters on the fringes of a meeting of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF's) policy-making Interim Committee, officials from France, Italy and the European Commission all played down recent turmoil in the European currency markets.

Bank of Italy Governor Antonio Fazio said he saw room for a further rise in the value of the Italian lira on world currency markets while Bank of France Governor Jean-Claude Trichet reaffirmed his backing for a stable French franc.

The barrage of comments from usually taciturn policymakers followed renewed pressure in the markets on the franc and lira and overshadowed long-term moves to strengthen the underpinnings of the world financial system.

To help in that regard, the United States and its allies in the Group of Ten (G-10) — Belgium, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland — on Sunday endorsed a plan to beef up the IMF by setting up a series of credit lines it could draw on in an emergency.

The aim is to have money in place before another Mexico-style crisis occurs. It took a \$30 billion package from the United States and the IMF to rescue Mexico from defaulting on its foreign debts on January.

The G-10 is already committed to providing the IMF with \$25 billion in emergency resources through the so-called General Arrangements of Borrow to combat future crises.

It said Sunday it wanted to double that amount by setting up a parallel financing arrangement that it and other nations would finance.

Among the potential candidates are: Australia, Austria, Colombia, Chile, Denmark, Finland, Indonesia, Ireland, South Korea, Malaysia, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Thailand and the United Arab Emirates.

Moves to buttress the ability of the IMF to combat future crises comes as the global economic outlook is improving.

"Since our last meeting in April there has been an improvement in the underlying conditions and outlook for sustained non-inflationary growth," U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin said.

Part of the optimism is due to the dollar's steep rise in recent months. Since hitting a record low in April against the Japanese yen, the U.S. currency has risen nearly 20 per cent, although in recent days its rally has stalled.

The dollar's advance has helped take some of the heat off Japan's stricken economy, boosting profits of the country's exporting companies and enhancing overall confidence.

Study: Public deficits to blame for long-term interest rate hikes

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Real long-term interest rates grew by just one per cent over the past 35 years among the 10 most industrialised countries, even as gross savings dropped by 5.0 per cent, a study issued by these countries has found.

The increase in long-term interest rates is a cause of concern for future economic growth and job creation, according to the study which suggested however that such risks should not be exaggerated.

The regular increase in long-term interest rates appears mainly due to the fact that savings have been dwindling, according to the study issued by the Group of Ten (G-10) group of industrialised countries on the sidelines of the annual conference here of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

The drop in public savings is mainly responsible for the overall decrease in savings within the G-10 which groups 11 countries in all — Belgium, Britain, Canada,

France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States.

The drop was due to lower private savings, but also a result of growing fiscal deficits.

Growing demand for investment, notably by developing countries and others which are being converted to a market economy, does not appear to have greatly contributed to a rise in long-term interest rates, according to the report.

Capital inflows, notably to the so-called transition economies of eastern Europe, have grown rapidly since 1990, with a peak in 1993. But in terms of gross domestic product, the increase represents a return to the early 1970's ratio.

Over the past 25 years, the strong investment growth in developing countries was mostly self-financed, according to the report.

"Furthermore, even with the surge of the past few years, net capital flows to developing and transition

countries amount to less than 5.0 per cent of private savings in the G-10 countries, compared to the 16 per cent absorbed by the G-10 public deficits," the study said.

Because of the globalisation of the economy, countries no longer depend so much on home-produced savings to finance investments.

Globalisation has also brought about other significant changes.

The effects of real interest rates of changes in fiscal deficits are now spread across all countries integrated into the global financial system. This means that countries collectively have an interest in the soundness of fiscal policies.

And it also implies that "countries pursuing unsustainable economic policies will pay sizeable risk premia," the report said.

The study also said that a reduction in public deficits would increase national savings and that fiscal consolidation would reduce long-term interest rate increases.

Senior banker sees E. Europe now in 2nd stage of reform

WASHINGTON (R) — The states of eastern Europe, and the former Soviet Union have moved towards a new stage of economic reform and international loans will lose significance as economies start to grow, a senior World Bank official said.

World Bank Vice-President Wilfried Thalwitz told a news briefing Sunday that countries would soon start to concentrate on structural reform, strengthening fragile financial sectors and improving tax laws.

"I do have the feeling that the first phase of this historic, wrenching transition is coming to a close," Mr. Thalwitz said. "The compression of output is coming to an end. Growth is widespread."

Many countries of central and eastern Europe expect rapid growth this year and the economies of some former Soviet republics have also started to turn round.

But output remains below levels seen before reforms began and it will take time to

climb back where it was before the Soviet Union and its bloc of satellite states collapsed.

"The name of the game is stable, sustainable economic growth," Hungarian Finance Minister Lajos Bokros told the briefing. He admitted reforms had cut wages, but added:

"If we can manage a politically very difficult course — what we have is probably the most severe austerity programme implemented in Europe — I think we can recreate the basis for export-led and sustainable growth."

Mr. Thalwitz said the main message from the reform process was that "stability pays off." "Stability is an inexorable part of the path back to growth and recovery," he said.

The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, have lent most of the countries of the former Soviet Bloc funds to speed their transition to a market economy.

Paris ups rates to defend franc

PARIS (R) — The Bank of France took emergency action Monday to head off a further slide of the franc after fresh selling prompted by mounting fears about the country's chances of qualifying for European monetary union.

After tightening lending Friday to brake the franc's slide, the independent central bank stepped in a second time, boosting a key lending rate by more than a percentage point.

The swift move won a respite for the franc, which recovered most of its early losses against the German mark, but currency analysts did not rule out a further speculative attack.

By early afternoon, the franc stood at 3.51 per mark, up from a five-month low of 3.53 hit early on Monday. The franc's parity against the mark is seen as the cornerstone of a future single European currency.

In an effort to calm the markets, Bundesbank President Hans Tietmeyer and German Finance Minister Theo Waigel piled in to support French Finance Minister Jean Arthuis in insisting the franc was one of Europe's strongest currencies.

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Part of the optimism is due to the dollar's steep rise in recent months. Since hitting a record low in April against the Japanese yen, the U.S. currency has risen nearly 20 per cent, although in recent days its rally has stalled.

The dollar's advance has helped take some of the heat off Japan's stricken economy, boosting profits of the country's exporting companies and enhancing overall confidence.

Bosnia needs \$5b for reconstruction, Bank says

WASHINGTON (R) — Bosnia will need \$3 billion from the international community to rebuild its economy and create a decent standard of living in a country shattered by years of war, a senior World Bank official said Sunday.

Wilfried Thalwitz, a vice president at the bank, said the money would be needed to rebuild homes, reconstruct energy and transport systems and make banks and factories work again.

"We have come to the conclusion that something like \$3 billion is a necessary input from the international community for the restructuring of the territory of Bosnia — and that may not be all," Mr. Thalwitz told a news briefing.

He said the figures came from a World Bank survey prepared before the latest ceasefire, due to take effect Tuesday. The deal, brokered by U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke, increases the chance of a lasting peace but does not guarantee it.

"The fact that peace is not assured does not render any figure useless," Mr. Thalwitz said. "This was the best effort we can make to quantify about the minimum effort required to establish a basis for life in the territory."

The World Bank figure on the cost of rebuilding the former Yugoslav republic is much lower than one from Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic, who told an international conference his

government needed \$12 billion for post-war reconstruction.

Officials of neighbouring Croatia also criticised the figure as being far too low.

"It's peanuts compared to what Bosnia really needs. Cities have been destroyed, villages burnt down, and you need railways, tunnels, pipelines, water supplies..." said Croatian Deputy Prime Minister Borislav Skokovic.

British Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke said Saturday that donor states had to ensure that financing needs were correctly assessed and aid was properly distributed.

"This mustn't be one of those international crises where big telephone figures

dominate everything and nobody has worked out how they are going to be applied," Mr. Clarke said at the end of a Group of Seven (G-7) finance ministers meeting.

The G-7 — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States — urged the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank to assess Bos-

nia's financing needs as quickly as possible.

This would enable the international community to "respond quickly, flexibly, and on suitable terms as soon as conditions warrant," the G-7 said in a communique.

France proposed offering Bosnia hefty debt write-off as a condition for reconstruction.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get every phase of your living better coordinated today so that all flows more smoothly and efficiently in such a direction to bring you better rewards.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Be more willing to listen to what a dynamic partner has to say today and make the association more ideal in an effort to be more successful.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) There may be a delay connected with your career activities, but be patient, and later today you can get much accomplished just the same.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) An associate expects too much of you at this time, but do only that which is feasible and all will be well towards you attaining your expectations.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) If you have a more positive attitude towards the tasks at hand, you will find you get better results with them and attaining your desires.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Plan the amusement you most prefer so that you can enjoy it more in the days ahead. Be sure you keep promises made to close friends and loved ones.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You may feel dissatisfied with home conditions today, but think in a positive way and all is improved easily towards you having a good relationship with loved ones.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) The planets may not be conducive to getting good results for you or others today. Just be patient and tonight be with good friends for a pleasant time.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is a good day to make a plan which can easily be followed so that you gain your aims and desires. You may not be feeling up to par, but hang in there.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Make the arrangements early today to gain personal wishes and carry through with them in a fashion which will bring you tremendous success and rewards.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You want to be with good friends today, but they may be too busy with their own affairs, so be patient and every direction will be fruitful.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You have to study those outside projects better before you can make them successful. Show patience and wisdom and all works well.

Birthingstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline

THE Daily Crossword by Frank R. Jackson

ACROSS

- 1 Beginner, of sorts
- 5 Type of beam
- 10 Snatch
- 14 Bait
- 15 Certain Arab
- 16 Judge's garb
- 17 Retirement accounts, in short
- 18 Coated, in a way
- 20 Certain permit
- 22 Prepares for press
- 23 Is in session
- 24 — Brummell (dandy)
- 26 Bone cavities
- 28 Harlequin, for one
- 30 Type of school
- 34 Social gathering
- 35 Beach
- 37 Commotion
- 38 Stack of hay
- 40 Precipitateness
- 41 Heroic poetry
- 42 Address Sommer
- 43 Aquatic mammals
- 45 Before, pref.
- 46 Other
- 47 Sail on high
- 48 Cornered
- 50 Poetic contraction
- 52 Certain Dutch colonist
- 53 In unison
- 56 Jargons
- 60 Foundry
- 63 Meat
- 64 Family members
- 65 Whether —
- 66 Within, pref.
- 67 Pairs
- 68 Coin of Denmark
- 69 Kind of party

DOWN

- 1 Spot of light
- 2 Distinctive atmosphere
- 3 Basics
- 4 "—, that's my baby"
- 5 Trademarks
- 6 Cupid
- 7 Seasoning
- 8 Termination
- 9 Tear
- 10 Chemist's flask
- 11 Menu word
- 12 Aid
- 13 Flowery areas
- 19 Grassland
- 21 Sch. gps.
- 24 Good-natured ridicule
- 25 Church dignity
- 26 Up — (cornered)
- 27 Eugene O'—
- 28 Cicero, e.g.
- 29 Vermicelli
- 31 Coin
- 32 Worship
- 33 Administered
- 36 "— were the days"
- 39 Acuity
- 44 Convertiplane
- 49 TV Superman, George
- 51 Slippery one
- 52 Sew loosely
- 53 Helper, abbr.
- 54 Put in storage
- 55 Wine, pref.
- 56 James Bond foe
- 57 Adage, var.
- 58 Actors
- 59 Plod
- 61 Oriental pan
- 62 Name in hockey

Yesterday's puzzle solved:

S	A	D	A	T	P	L	A	T	A	P	A	L
A	L	O	N	E	O	A	T	E	R	A	V	E
B	I	T	T	E	R	S	W	E	E	T		
E	E	E	P	A	I	N				N	E	S
S	E	E	N	T	C	E	L	E	S	T	E	
A	C	A	D		S	E	A	L		S	A	O
M	A	K	E	H	A	S	T	E	S	L	O	V
A	R	E		A	L	O	E			V	I	O
S	A	V	A	L	A	S				T	I	R
A	V	E	R		S	A	R	A	P	A	S	
B	A	R		L	I	T	T	E	G	I	A	N
R	I	N		I	D	E	A	L		A	N	I
A	L	E		B	O	A	T	S		N	A	D



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DEBIA
ALCKO
THIMER
SHELIC

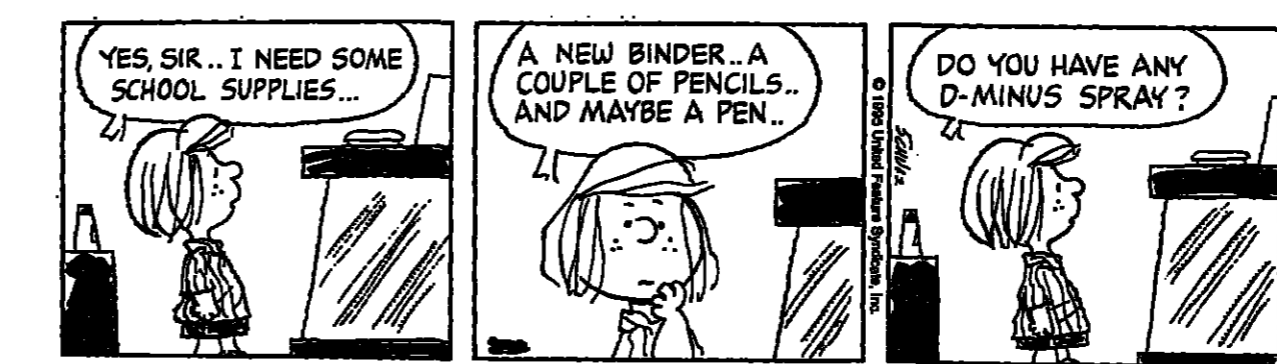
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: THE

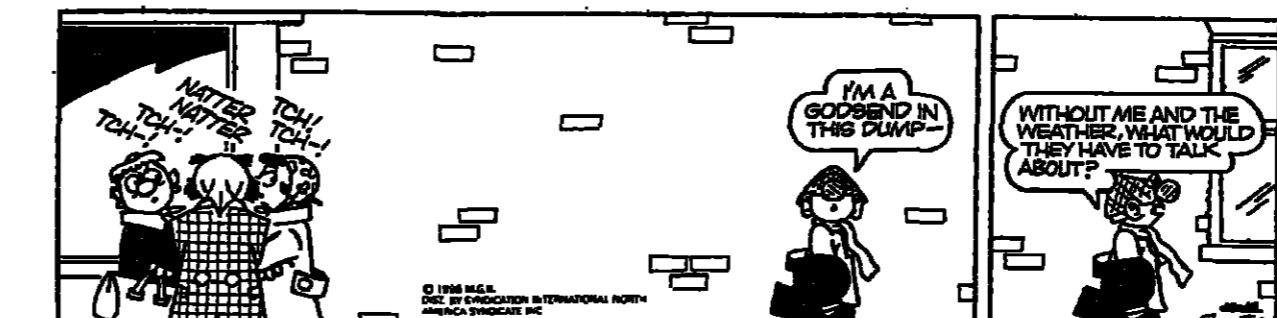
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: UTTER PIETY CORPSE RATION
Answer: What a hat can become on a cold day — A "TOP" PRIORITY

Peanuts



Andy Cap



Mutt'n'Jeff



Business daily beat

A review
of economic news
from the Arabic press

Tourism body asks ministry to stop licensing new offices

★ THE SOCIETY OF Travel and Tourism agents has asked the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities to freeze the issuance of licences for new tourism offices. The society's manager, Nicola Sabanek, noted that there was a surplus in the number of operators in the business, pointing out that the number of licensed offices has reached 310. Mr. Sabanek said there was an intention to raise the amount of guarantee for tourism offices to JD 10,000 to protect the rights and interests of consumers. Asked about the increase in the number of complaints from holidaymakers against tour operators, the tourism business chief said that a committee from both the society and the ministry has been formed to look into any complaint and that the committee would impose fines on any tour operator found guilty of not abiding by the services promised to a client, who will also be reimbursed for losses incurred (Al Rai).

HOROSCOPE

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GEMINI: (May 21 to June 20) There may be a disconnect with your activities, but be patient and let today you can get much accomplished just the same.

CANCER: (June 21 to July 20) An associate expects too much of you at this time, but do only the best towards you attaining your expectations.

LEO: (July 21 to August 20) You have a more positive attitude towards the tasks ahead, you will find you get better results with them and attain your desires.

VIRGO: (August 21 to September 20) Plan the presentation you must prefer in the days ahead. Be sure you keep promises made to close friends and loved ones.

LIBRA: (September 21 to October 20) You may feel satisfied with home conditions today, but think in a creative way and all is moving easily towards you and a good relationship with loved ones.

SCORPIO: (October 21 to November 20) The plans you have for the future are not being conducted as you wish, but you are getting good results for your efforts today. Just be patient and tonight be with your friends for a pleasant evening.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 21 to December 20) This is a day to make a plan that can easily be followed to gain your own desires. You may not be in a hurry to put it into action, but hang in there.

CAPRICORN: (December 21 to January 20) Make the arrangements early today to get your own wishes and carry out your own affairs, so be patient and every direction will be successful.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 20) You want to be good friends today, but you may be too busy with your own affairs, so be patient and every direction will be successful.

PISCES: (February 21 to March 20) You have to study the outside projects better today you can make them successful. Show patience and calm and all works well.

Daiwa Bank chief quits as scandal widens

TOKYO (R) — The president and two other top executives of Japan's Daiwa Bank resigned Monday in a widening scandal over concealed losses on bond deals at the bank's U.S. operations. The resignations followed huge losses on unauthorised bond trades at Daiwa's New York branch. But in new revelations, Daiwa also said that another part of its U.S. operations, a trust banking subsidiary, had covered up losses on U.S. bond trading. Daiwa officials also told a news conference that several bank officials had been involved in the original scam at the New York branch, which had at first been blamed entirely on one former senior bond trader. Analysts said the newly revealed losses at the trust unit, which a finance ministry official said were concealed from both U.S. and Japanese authorities until last week, will greatly upset U.S. regulators. The resignations of Daiwa Bank President Akira Fujita and two other top executives might be not enough to atone for the scandals, they also said. "I don't have any words about the second case... Daiwa may be forced to give up its business in the United States," said Yoshiro Ikuyo, first vice-president of Smith Barney International Inc. "Daiwa's nightmare will last for a long time... Daiwa is likely to be at the centre of the restructuring in Japanese banks as they will be forced to begin an industry-wide reshuffle due to the huge bad loans they have," he said.

Financial Markets Jordan Times In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

Currency	Close 9/10/95	Close 9/10/95
U.S. Dollar	1.5850	1.5841**
Deutsche Mark	1.4218	1.4184
Swiss Franc	1.1450	1.1373**
French Franc	4.9955	4.9555**
Japanese Yen	100.55	100.27
European Currency Unit	1.7890	1.7955**

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.62	5.61	5.61	5.61
Deutsche Mark	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.50
Swiss Franc	3.81	3.81	3.81	3.81
French Franc	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
Japanese Yen	5.61	5.61	5.61	5.61
European Currency Unit	6.42	6.42	6.42	6.42

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7110	0.7130
Deutsche Mark	0.5034	0.5059
Swiss Franc	0.6244	0.6275
French Franc	0.1450	0.1457
Japanese Yen	0.7081	0.7116
Dutch Guilder	0.4691	0.4713
Swedish Krona	0.0447	0.0444
Italian Lira	0.0447	0.0444
Belgian Franc	0.0447	0.0444

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One U.S. dollar	1.3324/34	Canadian dollar	1.4108/18
U.S. Dollar	1.5782/92	Deutsche marks	1.5782/92
U.S. Dollar	1.1344/54	Dutch guilders	29.01/05
U.S. Dollar	4.9600/10	Swiss francs	6.9780/80
U.S. Dollar	1606.77/7	Belgian francs	6.2380/80
U.S. Dollar	100.30/40	French francs	5.4864/96
U.S. Dollar	6.9780/80	Italian lire	1.4252/62
U.S. Dollar	6.2380/80	Japanese yen	0650/40
U.S. Dollar	5.4864/96	Spanish pesetas	7.7310/20
U.S. Dollar	1.4252/62		
U.S. Dollar	0650/40		
U.S. Dollar	7.7310/20		

One sterling	1.5846/56
One ounce of gold	384.60/85.00

Top ABB official receives international award

AMMAN — Percy Barnevik, president and chief executive officer (CEO) of ABB, the international electrical engineering company, has been announced winner of the "1995 emerging markets CEO of the year award" by the award organisers ING Bank and International Media Partners at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. Mr. Barnevik received the award presented to "the chief executive of a company headquartered in the developed world whose expansion into emerging markets has best shown how these markets can contribute significantly to corporate revenues and profitability, and has benefited the countries involved." ABB established a regional office in Jordan in 1988 and have recently been awarded the Aqaba Thermal Power Station project-Phase II for the amount of \$141 million in addition to signing other contracts with JEA and JOPEL-ROL.

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Business upswing boosts UAE bank credits

ABU DHABI (AFP) — An upsurge in trade and other sectors boosted credits by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) commercial banks by nearly eight per cent in the second quarter of 1995, official figures showed Monday. Domestic credits by the Gulf country's 47 banks totalled around 11.7 billion dirhams (\$19.5 billion) at the end of June compared with 66.5 billion dirhams (\$18.1 billion) at the end of March, according to studies presented to an investment seminar in Abu Dhabi. The figure is also higher by around 10 per cent over the credits at the end of 1994 as there was a strong demand for funds due to an upswing in the commercial and construction sectors in the UAE, the studies said. Experts said the upswing was partly caused by the \$2 rise in oil prices in the first half of 1995 compared with the first half of 1994. This meant more than \$1.5 billion in extra income for the state coffers. Another factor is the high return from investment in trade and construction and the absence of other major investment opportunities in the local market. In 1994, the trade and building sectors alone received nearly 32 billion dirhams (\$8.7 billion) in credits from local banks. Most of the increase in the second quarter was in credits extended to the private sector, which received an additional 3.16 billion dirhams (\$861 million). This raised its total credits to 68.4 billion dirhams (\$18.6 billion), according to the studies, which cited central bank figures. The papers gave no figures for the following months but bankers said demand was still strong despite a slight decline in crude prices. "A key factor for the high demand for credits is that the government expenditure has remained almost unchanged and such profitable sectors as construction and trade are steadily growing," one banker said. "This means more business for banks, especially in lending activity. According to unaudited balance sheets, most banks are expected to make higher profits in 1995 although earnings hit a record in 1994," he added. The figures showed the total assets of the UAE's 19 national banks and 28 foreign units grew by around 2.4 per cent to 175.8 billion dirhams (\$47.9 billion) at the end of June from around 171.6 billion dirhams (\$46.7 billion) at the end of March. Foreign assets, however, fell slightly to 57 billion dirhams (\$15.3 billion) from 57.9 billion dirhams (\$15.7 billion). Deposits increased by around 2.5 per cent to 71.5 billion dirhams (\$19.4 billion) and shareholders' equities, comprising capital and reserves, rose by 3.2 per cent to 20.38 billion dirhams (\$5.55 billion). This showed the capital adequacy, the ratio between shareholder equities and assets, averaged around 12 per cent, far higher than the eight per cent adequacy floor set by the Basle Committee for banks worldwide.

New banking giant looms as Lloyds reveals merger talks with TSB

LONDON (AFP) — The prospect of a new British banking giant emerged Monday when Lloyds Bank, the fourth-biggest retail bank in Britain, and TSB Group announced they were in merger talks. The merger would create "Britain's largest retail bank," with assets of about £140 billion (\$222 billion). The new entity would be bigger than Barclays, National Westminster and Midland, a spokesman for Lloyds said. Lloyds would take a controlling stake of 70 per cent, and TSB would hold 30 per cent, the two banks said in a joint statement, adding that the deal would be "in the best interests of customers, staff and shareholders." Lloyds' chairman, Sir Brian Pitman, would be chief executive of the combined group, with TSB's Peter Ellwood as his deputy. The acquisition of TSB, formerly called Trustee Savings Bank, would mark a turnaround for Lloyds, which failed with takeover bids for Midland Bank, bought up by the HSBC banking group three years ago, and Standard Chartered. The announcement of the talks surprised financiers who were aware of Lloyds' intention to expand through new acquisitions, but had not seen TSB as a likely target. The Sunday Times had reported that the bank intended to spend \$3 billion on a new acquisition, without mentioning TSB. Analysts, however, welcomed the news, saying that the merger would create huge cost savings for Lloyds, in an increasingly competitive banking market. At NatWest Securities, Steven Kirk said Lloyds would be getting TSB at a "reasonable price," considering the scope for cost savings, particularly in the merger of the banks' branch networks. But the main banking union Bifu immediately condemned the announcement as "appalling." General Secretary of Bifu, Teif Mills, warned of "savage" cutbacks in the branch network, adding that there was "absolutely no need" for a merger between the two profitable organisations. Lloyds has 43,500 staff in Britain with 1,800 branches, and TSB employs 25,000 staff in the U.K. with about 1,200 branches. British banks have already shed around 90,000 employees over the last 10 years, and Sir Brian Pitman recently warned that 75,000 jobs, a fifth of the current workforce, are at risk. These changes have come at a time of massive restructuring within the British financial service sector with the arrival of new information technology and intensifying competition. This, has multiplied in the last few years after home loans groups converted into banks, a trend launched by Abbey National. Lloyds went in the opposite direction this summer, acquiring the Cheltenham and Gloucester Building Society (C and G) for £1.8 billion. In the first half of this year, Lloyds made profits of £735 million, and TSB profits of £271 million. If the deal went ahead, it would value TSB at 329 pence per share, including a special dividend of 68 pence.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET			
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COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK P.C.	2780	666495	240.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	1370	5959	4.380
BANK OF JORDAN	18863	70323	3.680
ARAB BANK INVESTMENT BANK	1850	2323	1.250
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	6600	15167	2.270
JORDAN KHALI BANK	2315	8530	2.800
JORDAN GULF BANK	96925	112750	1.180
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	3500	12880	3.680
BUSINESS BANK	1000	3480	3.480
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT	300	1020	3.400
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	5750	19502	3.390
BANKS SECTOR	162723	926103	INDEX NUMBER: 181.60
MIDDLE EAST INSURANCE	20000	70000	3.500
ARABIAN SEAS INSURANCE	500	925	1.850
JORDAN FIRE INSURANCE	1300	3508	2.700
INSURANCE SECTOR	21800	74433	INDEX NUMBER: 131.70
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	14798	24182	1.630
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	150	398	2.650
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	11310	23575	2.070
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	150	158	1.040
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMERCE HOTELS	5000	11500	2.300
JORDAN HOTEL FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	11050	35121	3.170
ARAB PRIVATE UNIVERSITY	6600	8616	1.300
UNION LAND DEVELOPMENT CORP.	19050	21574	1.120
SERVICES SECTOR	68158	125411	INDEX NUMBER: 127.69
ATTANSEEP CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	2000	2400	1.200
JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	9313	33026	3.560
JORDAN PROSPERITY LINES	3500	10505	3.020
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	1607	15203	9.470
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	800	262	3.280
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	700	3339	4.770
JORDAN DAIRY	350	994	2.500
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING	170	422	2.460
ARAB AL DANA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	1692	12237	7.250
ARAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRIES	2500	13000	5.200
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	36993	25562	7.00
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	3300	4653	1.400
ARAB INDUSTRIAL INDUSTRIES	11500	12394	1.070
INTERMEDATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	1250	2188	1.780
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	200	850	4.250
JORDAN SULPHO-CHEMICALS	3400	4628	1.360
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	2137	4487	2.100
UNIVERSAL ROBERT INDUSTRIES	300	960	3.200
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	950	1862	1.980
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	650	1027	1.580
INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	6725	9418	1.420
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	90037	161697	INDEX NUMBER: 123.18
GRAND TOTAL	342718	1287644	INDEX NUMBER: 187.98
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET	171189		
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET	120488		

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Chorkina stars on bars, Podkopaeva wins second gold

SABAE, Japan (AP) — Russia's Svetlana Chorkina outdid two already spectacular performances with a dazzling, twisting show Monday and won the gold medal on the uneven bars at the World Gymnastics Championships.

Ukraine's Lilia Podkopaeva, the women's individual all-around gold medalist here, gained another gold in the vault but shared it with Romania's Simona Amanar.

Podkopaeva also was one of Chorkina's victims. She and China's Mo Huilian had tied with 9.837 marks before Chorkina pirouetted her way atop the bars to a 9.900.

It was another blow for Mo, the high scorer of the team competition, who missed the women's all-around gold with a fall after a flawless balance beam routine Sunday.

China, first here in the men's team event and second

in the women's, settled for silvers Monday by Mo, all-around men's champion Li Xiaoshuang in the floor exercises and Huang Huadong, who shared his with Japan's Yoshiaki Hatakeda on the pommel horse.

But Li Donghua, who moved to Switzerland in 1989 after being thrown off the Chinese team for marrying a Swiss woman, won gold for his adopted nation on the pommel horse.

Vitaly Scherbo of Belarus, the 1993 world champion and winner of six gold medals at the 1992 Olympics, won in the floor exercises.

Italian strongman Yuri Chechi won his third consecutive rings title.

Five more speciality gold medals were to be decided Tuesday, final day of the championships.

Chorkina's gold was the first here for the Russians.

They were shut entirely out of the team medals, breaking a streak by the Soviet Union and its Russian successors that went back to 1954, when the Soviets won both the men's and women's team golds.

American Shannon Miller, the 1993 and 1994 women's all-around champion and 1994 gold medalist on the balance beam, has been plagued by a foot injury. After ignoring the injury to help the Americans win the women's team bronze medal, she finished 12th in the all-around Sunday and seventh on the uneven bars Monday. She and Kerri Strug both pulled out of the vault with injuries, and Jaycie Phelps was eighth and last on the bars.

In the vault, Amanar gave Romania another gold to go with its women's team cham-

ionship. She tried a slightly more complex vault than Podkopaeva, but Podkopaeva was more solid and the marks came out even at 9.781. Romania's Gina Gogean, the 1994 champion, was third with 9.706.

In the men's floor exercises, Scherbo bounced from somersault to somersault as if he were made of rubber,

scoring 9.812 to Li's 9.775. Grigory Misutin of Ukraine was third with 9.762.

Scherbo, the all-around silver medalist here, thus gained his 13th world championships gold medal.

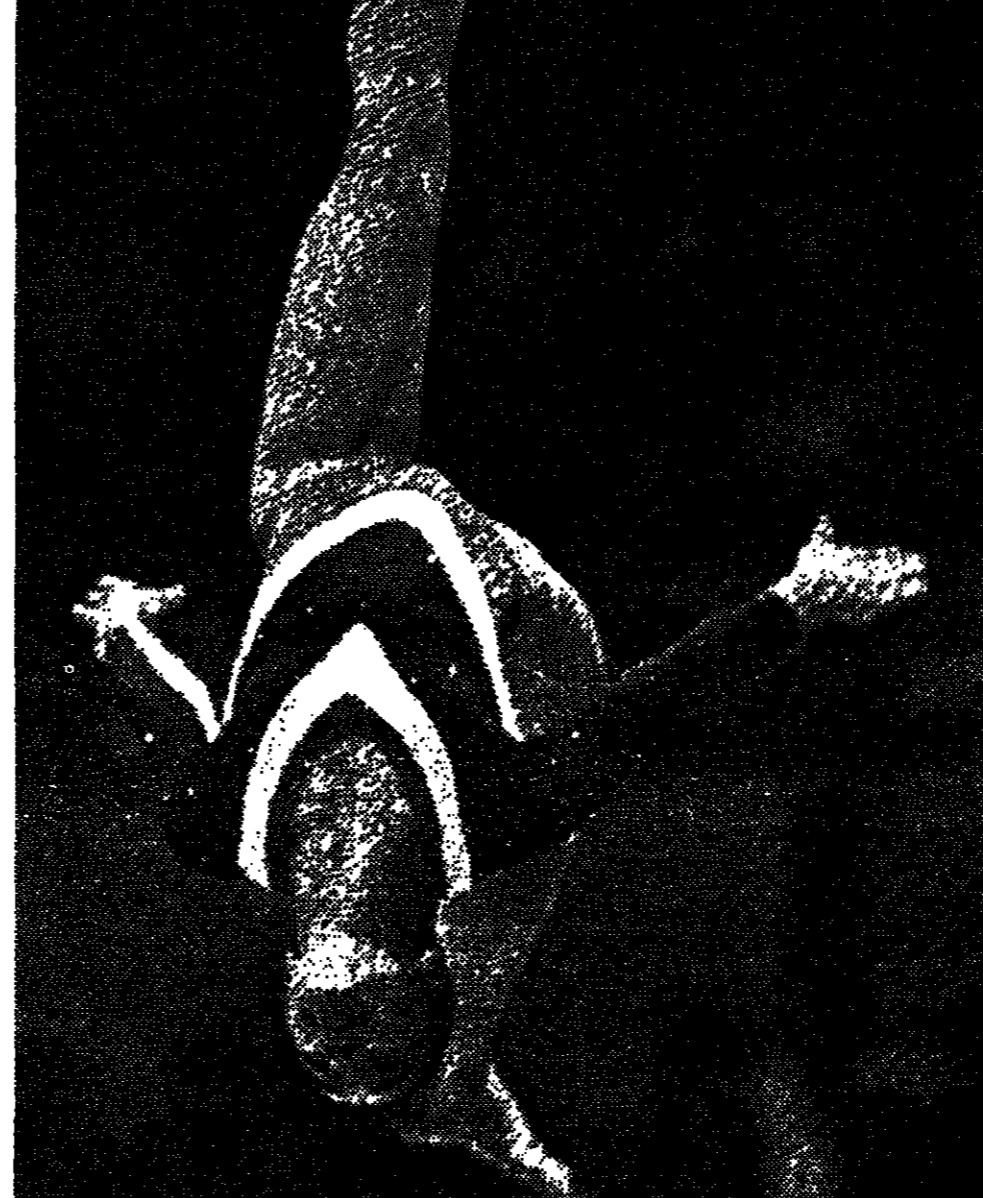
In a trio of near flawless routines on the horse, Switzerland's Li scored 9.762, while Huang and Hatakeda each had 9.737.

Hatakeda gave the host nation its second silver, after a second place in the men's team event.

Italy's Chechi barely let the rings ripple through his series of handstands and strength holds, scoring 9.850. Romania's Dan Baurinca was second with 9.762 and Bulgaria's Jordan Jovtchev third with 9.750.



World Champion Yuri Chechi of Italy performs on the rings on his way to win his third successive gold in the apparatus finals at the World Gymnastics Championships (Reuters photo)



Lilia Podkopaeva of Ukraine flips over the balance beam on her way to win gold in the women's all-around individual competition at the World Gymnastics Championships (Reuters photo)



Svetlana Chorkina of Russia competes on her way to win the uneven bars at the World Gymnastics Championships (Reuters photo)

Top thoroughbreds vie for world's richest race

DUBAI (R) — Ascot has royalty and Longchamps is chic but for the really big money the top thoroughbreds are vying for a place in the world's richest horse race in the Arabian desert.

Prize money guaranteed at \$4 million puts the inaugural race of the Dubai World Cup next March 27 in a class of its own.

Some 60 per cent of the purse — \$2.4 million — goes to the winner who will become the champion of international champions.

First entries for the 10-furlong (two-kilometre) race, which is designed exclusively for the best four-year olds from every continent, are due to be nominated Tuesday.

It will be run at Nad Al Sheba, a modern equestrian complex lavished with the best that money can buy within sight of the bustling city of Dubai.

Only one element is missing — betting. The devout Muslims of the Gulf Emirates do not permit gambling. So there are no odds. But racegoers are given a ticket permitting them to forecast winners. High-value prizes — often luxury consumer goods, sometimes horses — or cash are awarded.

Only 14 starters will be allowed to run on Nad Al Sheba's floodlit track. They

will be the champions of the Prix de L'Arc de Triomphe in Paris, the Breeders' Cup and the Arlington Million in the United States, the Melbourne Cup in Australia, Tokyo's Japan Cup, the Hong Kong International races and other famous races.

Three will be runners from Europe, three from Australia and New Zealand, two from Asia and four from hosts United Arab Emirates.

One month before the race, all 14 are expected to fly to Dubai to get accustomed to the 25-28 degree Celsius climate and be pampered in an air-conditioned stabling block that has yet to rise from the desert sands.

For everyone, it will be a return to the land of their fathers.

All modern thoroughbreds trace their lineage to three Arabian stallions acquired by Europeans in the 17th century which, crossed with European breeds, founded a dynasty whose descendants now run in every major racing country.

The Dubai World Cup will thus mark the return to the Middle East of descendants of a legacy, says Sheikh Maktoum Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, ruler of Dubai and vice-president of the United Arab Emirates.

The race is the inspiration of his younger brother Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, crown prince of Dubai, UAE defence minister and the world's most successful owner with strings of successes to his name in season after season.

The Maktoum's main goal — apart from the pleasure of seeing a few of their hundreds of horses in action on their home turf — is to enhance Dubai's status as the sporting capital of the Middle East.

Golf's PGA Desert Classic, a power boat Grand Prix in the warm waters of the Gulf, ATP tennis and the Dubai Snooker Classic are already fixtures on the world sporting calendar.

It is a racing certainty that an early favourite next March will run in the royal blue colours of Godolphin, the Dubai yard whose phenomenal success this year has crowned Sheikh Mohammed with domination of major races around the world.

Godolphin's all-conquering three-year-old chestnut colt Lammtarra has become one of racing's all-time greats following victories in the Epsom Derby, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes at Ascot and the Prix de L'Arc de Triomphe.

Graf's contract with Opel in jeopardy

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — Tennis star Steffi Graf, caught in a tangled web of tax evasion allegations, also faces loss of her million dollar contract with Opel, the German car-making subsidiary of General Motors, said Sunday.

Opel supervisory board member, Hans Wilhelm Gaeb, who is also head of General Motors Europe, said Steffi Graf's sponsorship contract would expire soon. It was worth an estimated 1.5 million marks (\$1 million) annually.

"The four-year contract runs out at the end of the year, and the conditions to extend it don't exist at the moment," Mr. Gaeb told the German sports news agency SID.

Mr. Gaeb also said that his comments in an interview with the Munich-based Focus magazine, concerning Steffi Graf's ties with the U.S.-based marketing firm Advantage International, and its manager Philip de Picciotto, remain Opel's policy.

In the interview, Mr. Picciotto to prove that he wasn't tied in with manipulation of sponsor funds and illegal money transfers to avoid taxes.

Mr. Gaeb also said that comments in a radio interview Sunday by Opel chairman of the board, David

Herman, who said he saw no reason to break with Steffi Graf, were made before Mr. Herman, who had just returned from a business trip, was brought up to date on the latest developments.

Steffi Graf, who underwent a day of questioning by the Mannheim prosecutor's office on Thursday, could face possible arrest soon. Der Spiegel Magazine of Hamburg said in its editions that go on sale Monday.

The magazine said Mannheim district court judge Helmut Bauer commented after studying Steffi Graf's response to the questioning "I foresee application for another arrest warrant."

Peter Graf, her father and manager, and tax advisor Joachim Eckardt, are already jailed in investigative custody in the case.

Peter Graf allegedly failed to report some 50 million marks (\$35.2 million) of his daughter's earnings over a period of several years, and used advantage international and another company also linked to Mr. Picciotto, the Netherlands-based Sunpark, to funnel the money out of Germany.

Mr. Gaeb told Focus he suspects Mr. Picciotto was involved in questionable transfers of millions of marks in sponsor payments. He also hinted it was done without Steffi Graf's knowledge.

Allen wins sixth Ironman triathlon

KAILUA-KONA, Hawaii (AP) — American Mark Allen passed Germany's Thomas Hellriegel around the 37-kilometre mark of the marathon and held on to win his sixth Hawaii Ironman title.

Allen was more than 13 minutes behind the leader when he started the marathon run in Saturday's Ironman Triathlon World Championship, and had doubts he could catch up.

"I thought I could make up six or seven minutes, but 13 seemed like a lot," he said. Allen's time for the 225-kilometre race was 8 hours, 20 minutes and 34 seconds, well off his record pace of 8:07:45 in 1992.

Allen sat out last year after winning the previous five years.

Hellriegel had set a fast pace throughout the 179-kilometre bicycle ride despite the strong headwinds, with Jürgen Zack, also of Germany, not far behind. After pulling ahead of defending champion Greg Welch of Australia during the run, Allen was alongside another German, Rainer Mueller.

Hellriegel finished second in 8:22:59, and Mueller was third in 8:25:23, but Zack fell back.

With less than a mile to go, seven-time winner Paula Newby-Fraser of the United States appeared headed for her eighth women's victory. But she suddenly stopped running, paused briefly and then began walking before

she collapsed about 273 metres from the finish line. Another American, Karen Smyers, passed Newby-Fraser as she sat on a curb and won the women's title 9:16:46. After several minutes, Newby-Fraser was able to get up and walk to the

finish line. Isabella Mouthon-Michellys of France, was second in 9:25:13. Fernanda Keller of Brazil was third in 9:37:48, and Newby-Fraser was fourth in 9:37:54. Wendy Ingraham of the United States was fifth in 9:42:36.

GOREN BRIDGE

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Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ 10 6
♥ A J 10 6 4
♦ K J 5
♣ A 8 2

EAST
♠ Void
♥ K Q 9 8 2
♦ 8 7 4 3
♣ Q 7 6 3

SOUTH
♠ A J 7 6 4 3 2
♥ 7
♦ Q 10 8
♣ K 5

The bidding:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1NT Pass 1♠ Pass
2NT Pass 4♠ Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠.

How you play certain suit combinations depends on how many tricks you must win, or how many you can afford to lose. The trump suit on this deal is an example of structuring the play to meet your needs.

Since North's one-no-trump rebid guaranteed at least two spades, South was certainly worth a jump to four spades on the second round. To make an invitational jump of three spades would be putting too much strain on partner.

West led the jack of clubs. How

should declarer tackle the trump suit?

With two losers outside of trumps, the best way to play spades for only one loser would be to hane out the ace of spades and continue with a trump. That would limit the loss to one trick if trumps were 2-2 or if either defender held a singleton honor.

Here, however, declarer has only one loser outside the trump suit and can afford to surrender two trump tricks. Therefore, declarer's efforts should be concentrated on guarding against a possible 4-0 trump break, in which case there is a danger of losing three trump tricks.

Correct technique is to win the opening lead in hand and fire a low spade toward dummy. If West shows out, insert the ten, forcing an honor from East. Later you can cross to dummy and take the marked finesse of the jack of spades — mission accomplished.

The safety play also works if the cards are distributed as in the diagram. West must win the first trump trick with an honor. When you regain the lead, you simply lead the ten of trumps and surrender a trick to the remaining honor. The ace and jack will then pick up the remaining trumps and again the contract is safe.

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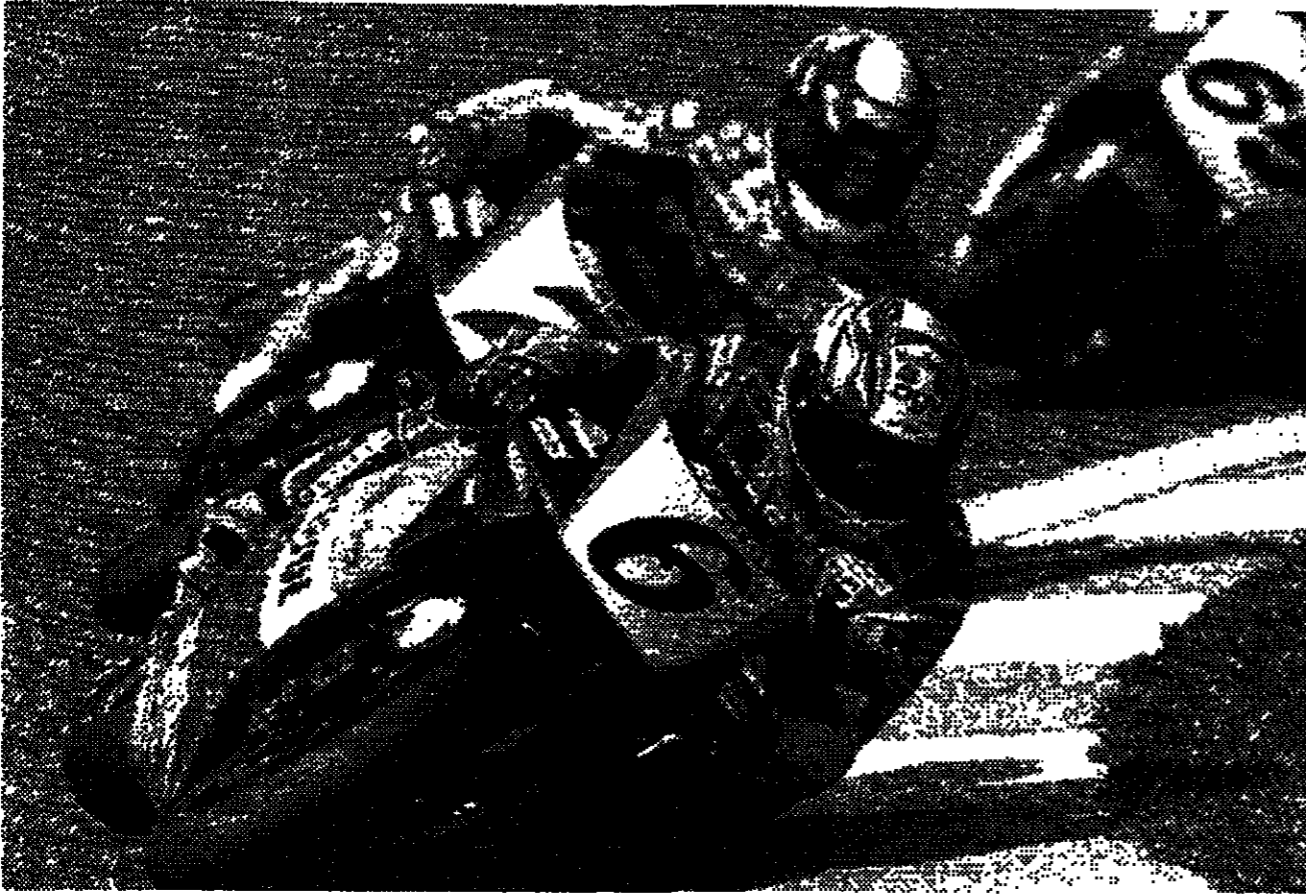
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Catalonian 500cc rider Alex Criville is followed closely by Japanese Shinichi Itoh during the Catalonian Motorcycling Grand Prix (Reuters photo)

Criville wins European motorcycle prix

BARCELONA (R) — Spain's Alex Criville won the European Grand Prix 500cc motorcycle race on Sunday but once against Australian world champion Michael Doohan had no luck in Spain. Doohan, who clinched the

title in Argentina last month, had to settle for fourth place in the last Grand Prix of the season, nearly five seconds behind fellow Honda rider Criville. The Australian was deprived of victory by Italy's

Luca Cadalora in last year's European Grand Prix here and earlier this year crashed out of the Spanish Grand Prix in Jerez, handing victory to Spain's Alberto Puig. Criville manoeuvred his Honda through the 25 laps of

the 4.727-kilometre Montmelo circuit outside Barcelona in 45 minutes 16.932 seconds.

Japan's Shinichi Itoh and Italy's Loris Capirossi, both also riding Hondas, were less than a second behind in second and third places.

Criville tussled for the early lead with compatriot Carlos Checa, who was looking for his first Grand Prix victory.

Checa, replacing injured fellow Spaniard Puig, led on his Honda for 13 laps but made an error on the 16th lap, crashed out and left the circuit in tears.

Criville took charge and held off Itoh and Capirossi, who mounted a challenge four laps from the finish.

Doohan won the world title with an aggregate of 248 points from the season's 13 Grands Prix.

Fellow Australian Daryl Beattie, fifth immediately behind Doohan on Sunday, was second in the final championship standings with 215 points.

Cadalora, who dropped out on Sunday after his Yamaha developed mechanical problems, was third overall with 176 and Criville fourth with 166.

Olanowins world road title despite puncture

DUITAMA, Colombia (R) — Abraham Olanowins the world title in professional road racing on Sunday despite riding the last kilometre of the race with a punctured back tyre.

Olanow, 25, claimed the first major title of his career and shattered the hopes of his compatriot Miguel Indurain, who desperately wanted the World Road Race title to add to his five Tour de France victories.

Indurain finished second, 35 seconds behind Olanow, beating Italy's Marco Pantani into third place in a sprint finish that also involved Switzerland's Mauro Gianetti, who was fourth.

Olanow, who comes from the Basque Country and is considered the successor to Indurain, completed the 15 laps of the 17.7-kilometre course in seven hours nine minutes 55 seconds.

He made the decisive move on the descent during the penultimate lap, speeding ahead of the leading pack as they were watching the moves of Indurain who appeared to be momentarily distracted by the tactical battle.

Olanow, who had finished second to Indurain in Wednesday's time trial, opened up a 35-second gap which he held during the punishing final climb and appeared to have wrapped up victory until the puncture.

"A lot of things went through my head but I knew I had to put my head and go as fast as I could," he said, adding that the decision to attack had been spontaneous.

Indurain himself had suffered a puncture on a steep climb during the 14th lap. He was forced to change bike, briefly lost touch with the pack

but quickly caught them up again.

The circuit around the provincial town of Duitama, which lies at 2,800 metres above sea level, consisted of a long climb out of the town followed by a steep and twisting descent back into it.

The first half of the race was held in hot sunshine but heavy rain then made the circuit even more perilous.

France's Laurent Roux led for six laps early on, opening up a three-minute advantage at one stage, but dropped out in the ninth lap before the real racing had started.

After that, several attacks were made but none was successful.

Earlier on the 14th lap, Gianetti and Jose Maria Jimenez of Spain had broken away from the field on the climb but were quickly caught by the pack.

Only around 20 riders

finished the race on a course considered one of the toughest ever used for the world championships.

Richard Virenque of France, whose king of the mountains title in this year's Tour de France made him a hot favourite for the title on a hilly course, lost contact with the pack on the final ascent. He eventually finished sixth.

Two-times world champion Gianni Bugno of Italy retired in the fourth lap.

The host nation, who had high hopes of an historic win, ended up empty handed.

Oliverio Rincon, brought up on a farm which lies on the circuit, was in contention but lost touch with the leading pack on the penultimate climb as did his compatriot Israel Ochoa.

Rincon eventually finished eighth while Ochoa was 11th.



Spanish World Champion Abraham Olanow (centre) is flanked by compatriot and silver medalist Miguel Indurain (left) and bronze medalist Marco Pantani of Italy during the awards ceremony for the World Championship Road Race (Reuters photo)

U.S. officials defer dope test plan

ATLANTA (R) — U.S. Olympic officials on Sunday put off any action on a tough national anti-doping plan, throwing the plan into doubt for next year's Olympic Games.

Directors of the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) did not vote on a resolution that would have required each Olympic sport to launch a tough out-of-competition testing programme for training athletes from the beginning of 1996.

Currently only a few sports require tests without notice on training athletes.

Directors agreed that the programme, hammered out by the USOC's Sports Medicine Committee, needed more time for consideration by individual sports and would therefore be deferred until the next board of directors' meeting in April, just three months before the Atlanta Olympics.

"There is no specific problem with the programme, we just need more time for the mechanics of it to be implemented. I am sure it will be adopted at the next meeting," said David Joyner, chairman of the Sports Medicine Committee.

Olympic officials were doubtful the programme, which would put the United States at the forefront of the international battle against drugs in sport, would be ready for action during the intensive period of training and team selection ahead of the Olympics in Atlanta next July 19 to Aug. 4.

The proposed \$2.25 million programme mandates the U.S. governing bodies of each sport to administer out-of-competition testing as well as their current routine of random in-competition dope tests.

"To be genuinely effective, anti-doping measures must be carried on throughout the training period. Out-of-competition drug testing should be administered without warning to the athlete. A no-advance notice, out-of-competition drug testing

programme is required," the report said.

Sports officials attending the USOC directors' meeting said one of the major obstacles facing the anti-doping programme is financial — governing bodies fear they will have to foot the bill for the extra testing.

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2 Americans and German win '95 Nobel for medicine

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Two Americans and a German won the Nobel Medicine Prize Monday for gene studies that help explain birth defects and miscarriages.

The laureates are Edward Lewis at California Institute of Technology; Christiane Nusslein-Volhard at the Max Planck Institute for Developmental Biology in Tübingen, Germany; and Eric F. Wieschaus at Princeton University in the United States.

Their breakthrough, achieved over decades and culminating in the early 1980s, has helped scientists begin to understand problems in early pregnancy, including birth defects and miscarriage. Sweden's Karolinska Institute said in its citation.

"They let the genie out of the bottle. Their research have stimulated other research in many other fields," award committee member Björn Vennström, a professor at the Karolinska Institute, said at a news conference.

Their work has helped give scientists and doctors a better understanding of how and why the body rejects embryos — a common occurrence for first-time mothers.

Only about six of 20 fertilisations lead to children, and abundance of miscarriages long has been an enigma.

"It is very likely that (genetic) damages of this kind can explain why," Mr. Vennström said.

"Together," the award citation said, "these three scientists have achieved a breakthrough that will help explain congenital malformations in man."

The scientists used the lowly fruit fly, well-known to generations of biology students, for studying how some genes lead to mutations in development, the citation said.

Ms. Nusslein-Volhard, 52, and Mr. Wieschaus, 48, identified and classified a set of 15 genes that are key in

determining the body plan and the formation of body segments — organs and wings.

Mr. Lewis, 77, working separately since the 1940s, laid the ground for the work by discovering that genes were arranged in the same order on chromosomes as the body segments they controlled — the top genes controlled the head and the middle genes the abdominal region.

The laureates reasoned that the mutated genes in fruit flies work the same way in humans. They did not actually work on human embryos, but were able to apply the principles to understand ailments such as warburg's syndrome, a rare disease that causes deafness and facial deformity.

"It is likely that mutations in such important genes are responsible for some of the early, spontaneous abortions that occur in man, and for some of the about 40 per cent of the congenital malformations that develop due to unknown reasons," the citation said.

Mr. Wieschaus, reached at home in the United States, said he was asleep when getting the telephone call early Monday.

"This man spoke to me in a Swedish accent. I thought he probably had the wrong number. Maybe he did, but they're not going to take it back," Mr. Wieschaus said.

Noting that some of the experiments were done on fruit flies, he said, "We didn't know it at the time, but we found out everything in life is so similar, that the same genes that work in flies are the ones that work in humans."

He said he and his co-workers will share the prize. "I think we'll be able to figure out how to divide it up. I think I'll go out and buy some books."

The prize this year is worth 7.2 million kronor (\$1 million). The winner will be honoured on Dec. 10 at a

(Continued on page 7)

U.N., despite war, seeks Afghan aid

GENEVA (R) — The United Nations, insisting much of Afghanistan remained at peace despite a new upsurge in fighting, on Monday appealed to governments around the world for \$124 million to help the war-shattered Asian state.

The appeal was launched by Peter Hansen, U.N. under-secretary general for humanitarian affairs, at a Geneva meeting of representatives of countries who have contributed to similar appeals in the past.

"While a solution to the country's political problems is still awaited, most parts of the country enjoy relative peace and stability," said a statement from Mr. Hansen issued as the meeting got under way.

Evidence of normalisation, the statement said, "is to be seen alongside remnants of massive destruction."

Mr. Hansen, of Denmark, flew to Geneva at the weekend after a three-day visit to Afghanistan — where a fierce struggle for the capital Kabul is looming between forces loyal to President Burhanuddin Rabbani and the Taliban movement.

A Taliban front-line commander at Maidan Shahr, about 30 kilometres south-west of Kabul, said at the weekend his forces would not consider a ceasefire proposed by the U.N. and would attack the city when they were ready.

Mr. Hansen told reporters in Islamabad, Pakistan, after leaving Kabul on Saturday that he had told squabbling Afghan faction leaders they must work for peace if their country was to attract more international support.

The new appeal comes amid declining donor interest in the country — where the old Soviet Union and the West fought a 10-year proxy war during the 1980s and poured in military aid worth billions of dollars to the then-Marxist government and its Islamic guerrilla opponents.

The funds are sought to cover the relief and rehabilitation, including mine clearance, food aid and health assistance, to 200,000 internally displaced people. The funds will also be used to bring home some three million refugees still in neighbouring countries.

For the previous 12-month period until the end of September this year, the United Nations had sought \$106 million but donor pledges met only three quarters of the total.

Pakistan on Monday expelled Masood Khalili, the Islamabad-based envoy of President Rabbani, his family said.

Pakistani officials were not immediately available for comment on the expulsion, the latest sign of worsening relations between Islamabad and Kabul.

Mr. Khalili's 15-year-old son Mahmood told Reuters that police were taking his father to the Afghan border by car. The rest of his family, living in Islamabad, had been given 48 hours to leave Pakistan.

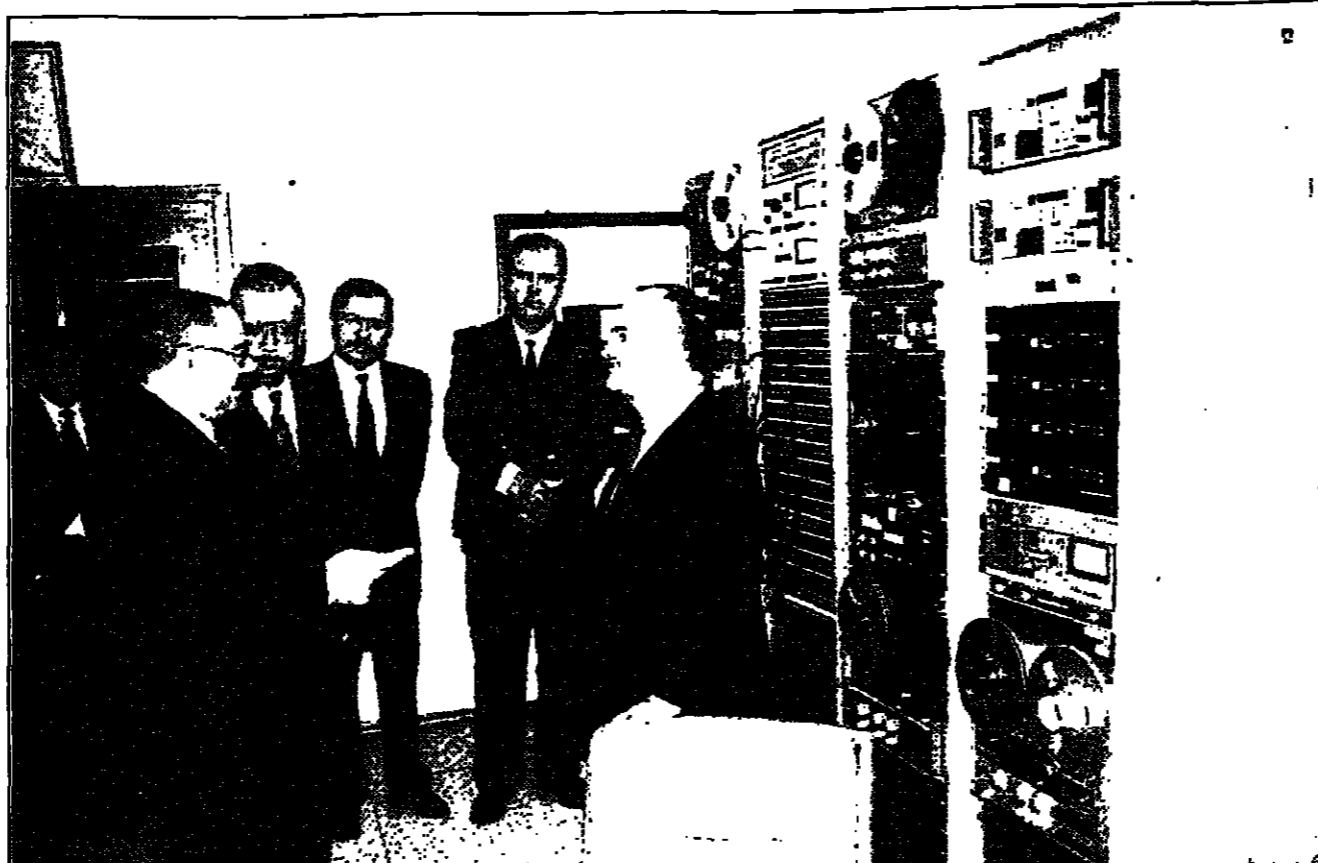
Pakistan says it has no favourites among Afghan groups, but Kabul accuses it of backing the Taliban.

On Sept. 21, Pakistan ordered the Afghan charge d'affaires and 12 other diplomats to leave in retaliation for an attack on its Kabul embassy on Sept. 6.

Pakistan's relations with the Afghan government are now at their lowest point since Mr. Rabbani took power a few months after the fall of a pro-communist regime in Kabul in April, 1992.

Foreign Minister Asf Ali Khan told a news conference on Sunday that Pakistan fully supported United Nations efforts to broker a peaceful settlement among warring Afghan factions.

"We feel no rancour or enmity (towards the Kabul government) despite their provocations and insults," he said. "What Afghans feel about their own government is a matter for the Afghan nation."



INFORMATION FLOW: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, on Monday visits the studios of the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation (see story on page one) photo by Boghos

Deputies blame government for their poor performance and call for reform

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Lower House of Parliament deputies on Monday blamed the government for the poor performance of lawmakers and called for amendments in the Constitution that give more powers to the legislative authority.

In the final session of a seminar on "Parliamentary Work: Prospects and Realities," parliamentarians described the dissolution of Parliament in August 1993 and the introduction of the one-person, one-vote Election Law as major violations of the legislative authority's powers.

Some went as far as to criticise what they described

as the executive authority's "hiding" behind His Majesty King Hussein.

"Constitutionally, the executive authority has excessive powers, and despite the fact that I respect the Constitution, there are certain provisions in it that negatively influence the performance of Parliament," said leftist Deputy Mustafa Shneikat.

"I respect the wishes of the King, but (the executive authority) hides behind him to pass its policies," he said.

Independent Islamist Deputy Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat also accused the government of interfering in the work of the legislative authority and said that this violates the Constitution. He called for a "new and modern" election law that would produce a strong parliament.

"It is in the interest of the government and the people to have a strong parliament," Dr. Tubeishat said.

Leftist deputies Bassam Haddadin and Toujan Faisal also voiced similar hopes and levelled criticism at the government but followed different tracks in explaining their views.

Ms. Faisal attacked the government's proposal of a new election law. She said 27 deputies forwarded a bill last year and this was not discussed by the House's Legal Committee.

Mr. Haddadin called for amending the House's bylaws in order to strengthen the role of the legislature.

"I was deprived of my right to question (the executive authority) two times in a row," said Mr. Haddadin.

Islamist Deputy Suleiman Sa'ad complained of what he described as the government's disrespect of the lawmakers' questions and said that lawmakers were not able to monitor and supervise the executive authority's performance due to the delay in ministers' response to their questions.

"There were some questions raised two years ago that received no reply until now," Deputy Sa'ad said. "Also the half-hour dedicated at the beginning of every session for questions

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ICRC visits Khiam

KHIAM (AFP) — A six-member team of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was allowed Monday to visit the Israeli-controlled Khiam prison in the South Lebanon "security zone" for the first time since the jail was opened in 1984.

A two-car convoy entered the jail, where about 250 prisoners, mostly Lebanese, are held without trial, some for more than 10 years.

The ICRC is expected to make daily visits to the prison this week and spend up to five hours inside the compound, said a spokesman for Israel's proxy South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia which runs Khiam.

A ICRC statement released in Beirut from its Geneva headquarters said that four Arabic-speaking delegates, a doctor and an interpreter entered the prison for the first time Monday.

"During the visit the delegates will assess the detainees' treatment and their material and psychological conditions of detention," the statement said.

Its findings and recommendations would be submitted to the relevant authorities in a confidential report, it said.

The ICRC stressed that its "standard working conditions" included the right to be able to repeat its visits as well as to see all the detainees in private.

On Sunday the SLA said it had authorised the ICRC to enter the prison to allow representatives to see the prisoners and interview them privately.

Human rights organisations have denounced conditions at the prison and compiled statements from witnesses complaining that torture is used during interrogations, which are said to be carried out by Israeli officers.

In January the SLA allowed the ICRC to organise visits by relatives to the pris-

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Minister apologises for poking fun at Pope

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — A cabinet minister has apologised for poking fun at Pope John Paul II and Prime Minister Jim Bolger, who is Roman Catholic, during a radio talk show. New Zealand's Catholic Church, along with the Pope's diplomatic representative, complained after Tourism Minister John Banks conducted an interview Sunday with a caller who claimed to be the Pontiff, complete with fake Polish accent. Many listeners complained. Mr. Banks hosts the show every Sunday morning. His headline conservative comments regularly stir up controversy. Mr. Bolger, who needs Mr. Banks' support to maintain a slim parliamentary majority and stay in office, has consistently refused to rebuke him publicly. In the past, Mr. Bolger has said he never listens to the programme because he's usually in church on Sundays. During the fake interview, Mr. Banks asked the phony Pope to award Mr. Bolger dispensation to skip mass so he could listen in. Mr. Banks apologised in a six-paragraph statement Monday. He said the call was "harmless good fun, and I believe His Holiness would regard it as such."

Church spokeswoman Lyndsay Freer said the church is considering suing Mr. Banks or complaining to the broadcasting standards authority. She denounced the spoof as "deeply offensive" and an "appalling lack of judgment."

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Arabs, Africans must compete with West, league official says

JOHANNESBURG (R) — African and Arab states must forge closer ties to overcome economic domination of the developing world by the industrialised West, a top Arab League official told a conference in South Africa on Monday.

"We can not any more entertain false illusion about the 80-called North-South dialogue, whose results were as expected, if not planned, nothing but harsher economic measures, more domination of our markets, stronger control of whatever is left of our raw materials," Adnan Omran, Arab League under-secretary for political affairs, told the Afro-Arab Trade Fair in South Africa's commercial capital Johannesburg.

"They continue to force their system of trade, their system of production and consequently their system of pricing, where we have to sell for one what they then sell for 10," he said.

"The need is pressing for further closeness and deeper solidarity, given the new and fast global transformation which includes... the rising of giant political and economic groupings and the laying of greater emphasis on the importance of regional cooperation," Mr. Omran said.

Earlier, South African President Nelson Mandela said rapid increases in trade between post-apartheid South Africa and other African and Arab countries highlighted the immense potential for trade and investment.

South Africa's exports to African and Arab countries grew by 26 per cent to 9.6 billion rand (\$2.6 billion) in 1994, the president told trade fair delegates from 45 states grouping nearly a billion people.

"Our imports from these countries showed a notable increase of 47 per cent to reach a figure of 2.5 billion rand (685 million)," Mr. Mandela said.

"These rapid increases reflect the immense potential for both trade and investment among our nations."

Mr. Mandela, working to attract foreign investment to South Africa to create badly needed jobs, said African and Arab countries needed to examine how the funds available in some regions could be used most effectively for the benefit of all.

"This is a challenge to business, as it is to governments, to ensure that we engage in ventures that will create jobs and see to socio-economic development and prosperity in all our countries," he said.

Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Secretary-General Salim Ahmed Salim described Africa as the new land of opportunities.

"The combination of Arab World market savvy, financial resources and Africa's natural resources should create a great economic force of our two regions," he said.

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Algeria's FIS leaders reportedly reject further talks with regime

PARIS (AFP) — The top two leaders of Algeria's militant Islamic movement have rejected further talks with the government while they remain behind bars, and because they say "real power" lies with the military, the London-based Arabic daily Al Hayat said Monday.

The paper said Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, who have been in jail or under house arrest since June 1991, "refuse to resume dialogue" with the authorities despite two meetings held at dates unspecified in the report.

Mr. Madani and Mr. Belhadj, who head the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), said they would have no meetings with officials "who do not represent the real power," in Algeria and would have no further talks on the country's political future "as long as they are kept in jail."

Al Hayat said a first meeting between the two FIS leaders and officials of the military-backed regime took place at the home of the local military commander in Blida.

South of Algiers where Mr. Madani and Mr. Belhadj were returned to prison after a period under house arrest from September to November 1994.

Mr. Madani and Mr. Belhadj had talks on that occasion with generals Mohammed Bechene and Tayeb Derradji who are both advisers to President Liamine Zerroual, the report said.

A second meeting was held with the same two officials inside Blida military prison. Al Hayat said Mr. Madani and Mr. Belhadj had then refused to shake hands with the two generals claiming the government was "playing for time and seeking to sow division among the Islamic militants."

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Mrs. Mitterrand adm